

Ferry tragedy firm's 'disease of sloppiness'

Zeebrugge inquiry sparks major storm of protest

By David Sapsted

Townsend Thoresen's management was yesterday described as "infected with the disease of sloppiness" by the judge heading the inquiry into the Zeebrugge ferry disaster in March in which at least 188 people died.

The certificates of the captain and chief officer of the ferry Herald of Free Enterprise, which capsized on March 6, were suspended yesterday when the inquiry published its report.

Mr Justice Sheen bitterly criticized Townsend Thoresen's management, saying:

"From top to bottom, the body corporate was infected with the disease of sloppiness." But he ruled that no statutory offence had been committed by the operators, prompting protests from the relatives of victims and from MPs.

Within hours of the report's publication, Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, announced a package of safety measures which would for the first time include making it a criminal offence for ferries to set to sea with doors open.

Mrs Thatcher said the new measures would be introduced as a matter of urgency. In the Commons, the opposition spokesman Mr Peter Snp said it was "deplorable" that action was being taken against the officers but not against the company.

Chief Officer Leslie Sabel, whose job was to ensure the bow doors were closed, bore the "most immediate" responsibility for the disaster, said the judge as he suspended his certificate of competency for two years.

Suspending Capt David Lewry's certificate for one year, the judge said that the master was responsible for the safety of everyone on the ship and had been "seriously negligent" in the discharge of his duties.

Mr Justice Sheen also singled out assistant boatswain Mark Stanley, who was asleep in his bunk when he should have been at the bow door controls, and said the company could consider action against him under the merchant shipping code of conduct.

But he blamed the underlying causes of the tragedy on Townsend Thoresen's management, whose failure to give proper and clear directions was a contributory cause of the disaster. "All concerned in management, from the members of the board of directors down to junior superintendents, were guilty of fault," he said.

Mr Justice Sheen ruled, however, that no statutory offence had been committed by the operators. "If it is the view of Parliament that the taking to sea of a ferry with her bow or stern doors open ought to be a criminal offence, then Parliament must enact the appropriate legislation," he said.

Townsend Thoresen had ignored calls for the fitting of bridge warning lights, and must have been aware by the autumn of last year that there was a real risk of ferries setting sail with the doors open, the judge said.

Yet the company had "turned a deaf ear" to what ferry masters were saying about the need to improve the safe operation of their vessels, and had put pressure on crews to set off early from Zeebrugge without proper standing orders to cover the closure of doors.

The inquiry also called for research into the possible use of a "dead man" switch. Continued on page 24, col 7

Channon acts to strengthen safety

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

MPs of all parties yesterday called for Townsend Thoresen to be severely punished after the Herald of Free Enterprise inquiry blamed the company and three senior officers for the tragedy in which at least 188 died last March.

There was outrage in the Commons at the inquiry's conclusion that, though the ferry left Zeebrugge harbour with its bow doors open, no statutory offence had been committed and the company could not be prosecuted.

Some MPs said Townsend Thoresen should never again be allowed to operate cross-channel ferries.

The inquiry, conducted by Mr Justice Sheen, named Captain David Lewry, the master; Mr Leslie Sabel, the chief officer; and Mr Mark Stanley, the assistant boatswain, as partly responsible for the disaster, and suspended the certificates of the first two.

However, Labour MPs claimed that the three had been made "scapegoats" for the appalling negligence of the company revealed by the inquiry.

The Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Paul Channon, announced a series of immediate and longer-term measures that he would be taking in line with the inquiry's recommendations on improving the safety of roll-on roll-off ferries.

He said he would introduce legislation to make conduct of the kind demonstrated by Townsend Thoresen a criminal offence.

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He also admitted serious doubts over the desirability of emergency inquiries of this sort which gave effective immunity from prosecution to those taking part to encourage co-operation.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, pledged that the Government would do all it could to ensure that the Zeebrugge disaster could never be repeated.

Mr Channon described the measures he was taking as "probably the most comprehensive list of changes and improvements in safety that has ever been announced".

As immediate mandatory steps, all ferries operating from British ports will have to carry indicator lights to show the position of the loading doors, closed-circuit television monitors for surveillance of the car deck from the bridge, and emergency lighting units.

Random checks will be made on ferries to ensure that they are not breaching regulations on loading, stability and passenger numbers.

The Department of Transport. Continued on page 24, col 7

representing the culmination of 10 years of debate.

In addition to the three "core" subjects of English, maths and science, every pupil will have to take seven other subjects. They are: a modern foreign language (but not for primary school children), technology, history, geography, art, music and physical education.

Religious education will remain a compulsory subject.

Specific attainment targets will be set in most subjects. They will lay down what children of different abilities should know, understand and be able to do at the ages of seven, 11, 14 and 16. "The main purpose of such assessment will be to show what a pupil has learnt and mastered and to enable teachers and parents to ensure

'Message to world that accusations were false'



Mr Jeffrey Archer, who was awarded historic damages, and his wife, Mary, leaving court yesterday, amid a crowd of reporters (Photograph: Alan Weller).

Record £1½m damages for Archer

By Paul Vailiely and Andrew Morgan

Mr Jeffrey Archer was yesterday awarded £1,500,000 damages against *The Star* newspaper, the highest amount ever awarded in a British libel action.

The jury had been told by the judge that it found in favour of Mr Archer, the damages awarded should be sufficiently large to "send a message to the world that the accusations were false."

The eight men and four women took four hours and 20 minutes to consider the newspaper's allegations that Mr Archer, while deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, had paid a prostitute £70 for sex and then lied about the matter in a public statement.

The verdict was delivered in court No 13 at the Royal Courts of Justice, which was packed to overflowing by members of the press and public who had queued since early morning to hear the judgment.

Mr Archer sat poker faced as the jury entered the courtroom. Mr Archer toyed nervously with her wedding ring as she waited.

When the foreman of the jury announced that it had found for Mr Archer, his wife, Mary, put her hands to her mouth. When he announced the damages she gave a half-smile and put her hands on her husband's back. Mr Archer struggled to suppress his pleasure.

Mr Michael Hill, QC, counsel for *The Star*, then applied for a stay pending notice of appeal. Mr Robert Alexander, counsel for Mr Archer, protested that such a stay was inappropriate in the event of a successful appeal. Mr Archer would be quite able to repay the money.

The judge, Mr Justice Causfield, refused the application. Discharging the jury, he told them they had had "an enormous burden to carry over the past three weeks." He relieved them of jury service for the next 15 years.

As the jury rose, Mr Alexander placed his hands in congratulation on the shoulders of Mr and Mrs Archer, who sat before him.

Mr Archer then spoke to his feet and thanked the court, the jury and the press. "The jury's verdict is a vindication of my character and a condemnation of the newspaper's conduct," he said. "I am pleased that the truth has been established."

The millionaire author was then kissed on the cheek by his wife before being surrounded by journalists. Turning to answer questions, he looked very strained. His only comment was: "The verdict speaks for itself."

In response to questions, he indicated that he would not be issuing any public statement on the matter, and declined to reply to questions on whether or not he intended to proceed with a separate action against the *News of the World*.

Mr Archer commented: "We are going home to have supper with the boys and we might open a bottle of champagne."

Asked about her feelings towards the prostitute at the centre of the case, Miss Monica Coghlan, she replied: "I will make no comment about that."

Before pushing her way through a large crowd of British and international journalists to their car, Mrs Archer said that the couple now intended to have a holiday and to go up to see her husband's play, *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*, which is running in the provinces on a pre-West End run.

After the verdict Mr Lloyd Turner, editor of *The Star*, turned to Mr Michael Hill, QC, the newspaper's representative, and whispered: "Thank you very much."

He was then half pushed, half carried from the courtroom by an eager mass of journalists. He said nothing throughout.

Mr Turner wore a look of benign resignation as the foreman of the jury announced the verdict and the £1,500,000 damages. It changed to one of resigned sternness as he emerged, blinking, into the daylight.

He pushed past members of the public, some holding the novels of Jeffrey Archer. They clearly thought they were witnessing the realization of a well-written chapter, with the villain confronting the world's inquisitive eyes.

For Mr Turner, at least, it was the end. Before the jury retired, he had occasionally removed his spectacles and pinched his eyes to clear his head of the prospect of losing hundreds of thousands of pounds for his proprietors.

But it became his fate to walk stiffly from the courtroom, with the amount of the damages ringing in his ears.

Mr Archer made no comment on what he intends to do with the damages award. But it is understood that he might decide to give a proportion of it to charity.

His office has been inundated with requests from charities since the case began. A spokesman said he could not comment until a decision on an appeal has been reached.

Last night, Mr Archer's mother, Mrs Lola Hayne, aged 73, said he had been "very naive".

She said at her home in Weston-super-Mare, Avon: "He should have asked for some help. It's such a pity."

"It's been heartbreaking, but not for me. For months it's been a waste of his life. I have been distressed for him."

"Dear Mary has been absolutely wonderful. The only time I shed any tears was for Mary's troubles."

"Their wedding anniversary fell right during the period of the case."

"I thought how sad for them. They have got this hanging over them on this special day."

During the 14 day case Mrs Hayne telephoned her son nearly every morning, before he left for the High Court.

"He never grumbled or has been downhearted. He has always said he is in the right. It's always been the case of: 'I'm right, mother. I will survive. I must win'. But he never thought it would come to an action. He had nothing whatsoever to hide."

She said she hoped her son would return to work for the Conservative Party.

The case had been like something from one of her son's books, but: "He didn't think of anything quite as awful as this trial."

"The saddest thing of all is that the case came at a time when his political fortunes were changing. But I am hoping he will be able to pick up the threads."

Mrs Hayne said her son and his wife were planning a champagne celebration and a garden party at their Cambridgeshire home.

"I know he was innocent all along. I can't wait to see him this weekend," she said.

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Passenger killed in hijacking

By Andrew McEwan, Diplomatic Correspondent

An attempt to force the Bonn Government to release Mr Muhammad Ali Hamadel, an alleged Lebanese terrorist, was believed last night to be behind an aircraft hijacking which left one passenger dead.

A Lebanese gunman seized an Air Afrique airliner over northern Italy and forced the pilot to land at Geneva. The hijacker singled out a seriously ill French bachelor and shot him in the head. The 28-year-old man died on his way to hospital.

Passengers at the back of the aircraft created a diversion by opening a door and operating an escape chute. Some of the crew seized their chance while the gunman's attention was diverted. In a fierce struggle a cabin steward was shot in the stomach, but other crew members escaped.

The Department of Transport. Continued on page 24, col 5

Maxwell closes the Daily News

By John Spicer

Mr Robert Maxwell's *London Daily News*, launched on February 24, has closed. Yesterday evening's edition, No 126, was the last.

Mr Maxwell said the paper was selling fewer than 100,000 copies a day, fewer than half the number targeted for five months after the launch.

Mr Maxwell said the *London Daily News* had failed to meet the essential minimum sales and there was no prospect of ever making it viable. He said he had come to his decision to close the paper "with regret and reluctance".

Mr Maxwell blamed distribution and printing problems for the failure of his 24-hour six-day-a-week newspaper.

"I have drawn the wrong lesson from this, which is never to let inexperienced printers print a newspaper. It will not happen when we next

plan an evening newspaper for London."

Last night Mr Angus Clark, a director of West Ferry Printers, said he was sorry to hear that the LDN was to close. "In his statement, Mr Maxwell has alleged failures in performance by West Ferry Printers Ltd. We reject his allegation."

Mr Maxwell totally absolved his editorial team from any blame for the newspaper's problems. He said the newspaper was good, intelligent, professionally produced and well-written.

The launch of "the paper that never sleeps" cost Mr Maxwell £25 million.

It also started one of the bitterest newspaper wars Fleet Street has seen. On the day of the launch, Lord Rothermere's Associated Newspapers

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Baker unveils national curriculum proposals

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The Government is to introduce national tests in English, maths and science for all children aged 11 and 14 in state schools in England and Wales.

They will also be expected to take the three subjects for GCSE at 16. There could be national tests for seven-year-olds as well. Parents will be told the results, which will also be available to employers.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced the plan yesterday in a consultation document outlining the proposed national curriculum to be followed by all pupils between five and 16.

He said it was an "historic reform

representing the culmination of 10 years of debate."

In addition to the three "core" subjects of English, maths and science, every pupil will have to take seven other subjects. They are: a modern foreign language (but not for primary school children), technology, history, geography, art, music and physical education.

Religious education will remain a compulsory subject.

Specific attainment targets will be set in most subjects. They will lay down what children of different abilities should know, understand and be able to do at the ages of seven, 11, 14 and 16. "The main purpose of such assessment will be to show what a pupil has learnt and mastered and to enable teachers and parents to ensure

that he or she is making adequate progress", the paper says.

"Where such progress is not made, it will be up to schools to make suitable arrangements to help the pupil."

Local education authorities will be required to set up a complaints procedure to cover the teaching of the national curriculum.

The Secretary of State is also planning to take unprecedented powers over the content of the syllabus of each foundation subject. He will also, for the first time, have the power to veto and veto all examination syllabuses.

A start to phasing in the changes is expected to be made in 1989.

Another consultation paper pub-

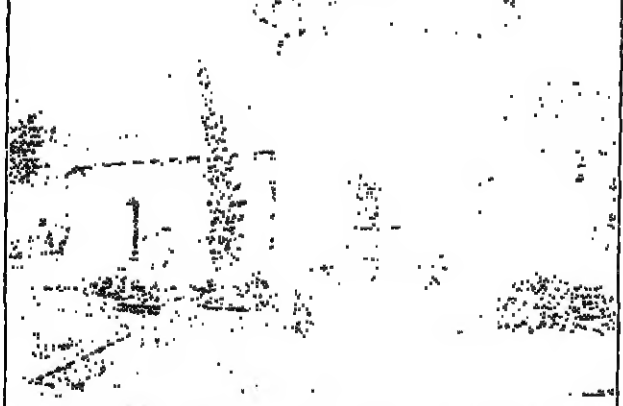
lished yesterday outlines the Government's proposals for grant maintained schools. It says there have been numerous indications that groups of parents want the responsibility of running their schools as individual institutions.

The opportunity to opt out of local education authority control is to be offered to all secondary schools and to primary schools with more than 300 pupils.

Both papers were condemned by the National Union of Teachers.

Mr Neil Fletcher, education chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the national curriculum was a "headlong rush into dictating what is taught in the classroom."

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Police hunting child murderer

Irish Police were last night hunting a child killer after the half-naked body of a murdered boy aged eight was found in a cornfield near his home in Waterford.

Kyle Curran was lured away from his playmates on Thursday night by a stranger who promised money for an errand.

His body was found yesterday morning with tape over his mouth and eyes. Police said the boy had been sexually assaulted after being suffocated or strangled. "Apart from a scratch there were no obvious injuries," said a spokesman.

Police hope the boy's two friends might be able to help them in their search for the killer. They warned parents on the Hillview estate to keep their children indoors.

Revenge killing

A jilted woman took revenge by murdering her former lover's new fiancée and then told the police that he was the killer.

At Teesside Crown Court yesterday, Maria Travers, aged 31, of Hartlepool, Cleveland, was jailed for life.

The court was told that after separating from her second husband, she tricked Malcolm Pearson, aged 32, into a bigamous marriage. He later became engaged to Miss Janet Newton, aged 23, who was stabbed to death two days later.

Pit plan is lodged

British Coal yesterday formally applied for planning permission for a £400 million "superpit".

The colliery, at Hawkmoor on the western outskirts of Coventry, could create 1,800 jobs and inject more than £200 million into the economy.

British Coal has hailed it as a mine for the twenty-first century, but the plan is opposed by local residents and environmentalists. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is expected to order a public inquiry.

Aircraft death verdict

The death of a safety officer, killed when an ejector seat blasted out of a Buccaneer bomber, was accidental, decided yesterday.

Mr Basil Davidson, aged 58, of Oldham Drive, Woodley, Stockport, was killed while removing the navigator's rear seat from the aircraft at a British Aerospace factory in Cheshire last February.

He was described as a "very experienced safety equipment officer". But technical evidence revealed the seat's firing mechanism had not been made safe before Mr Davidson started to remove it.

Inner city protest

Chief Constable yesterday accused the Home Office of allowing policing to deteriorate in the provinces to give priority to the inner cities.

Mr Roger Birch, Chief Constable of Sussex, asked the Home Office for an extra 103 officers in this financial year including 90 officers for Gatwick airport. The force was given the extra airport officers but nothing more.

Mr Birch said the Home Office decision was an "insensitive and ill-judged snub to a hard-pressed force".



Sexual abuse claim

Children are being "roped in" and checked for possible sexual abuse in a drive to prove estimates of the scale of the problem which have no firm foundation, according to Mr Stuart Bell, Labour MP for Middlesbrough.

He said yesterday that youngsters were having to undergo intimate hospital examinations after everyday pranks. "The picture coming across to me is of an army of social workers marching through Cleveland looking for child fodder for alleged sexual abuse diagnoses to prove statistics."

Thatcherism here to stay, says Prime Minister

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister pledged yesterday that her revolution to turn Britain into a nation of owners would go on beyond the present five-year parliament.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher made it abundantly clear that she expects to be at the helm for several years.

In her first big interview since the general election, Mrs Thatcher spoke of Thatcherism continuing long after she has gone.

She made clear that she was at least contemplating the

time when she would no longer lead the country.

"I will not be there forever, thank goodness and other people will say that too. But there is still a great deal more to be done."

In the course of the BBC television interview Mrs Thatcher:

- Set out her objections to televising the Commons;
- Ruled out big concessions on "poll tax" legislation;
- Defended the Government's stand in the Peter Wright *Spycatcher* affair;
- Predicted an East-West arms control agreement this year;
- Emphasized that she is in charge of the inner cities

initiative, and might have to "bang a few heads together".

Mrs Thatcher told Martyn Lewis that she did not think she would change her opposition to televising the Commons, although she just left open the possibility.

She said the heavy television lights and the heat in the "small, intimate chamber" would be dreadful. She did not think that the Commons had improved since radio broadcasts were introduced.

"The moment television cameras come in you don't televise what is there. It changes because you are there."

"Unless there are under very, very strict rules I would still vote against."

The Prime Minister hinted that she was prepared to make small changes to the community charge but there would be no large concessions.

"There is an inherent unfairness in the rates. There are going to be fewer unfairnesses in the community charge."

On the inner cities, Mrs Thatcher disclosed her irritation with some of her colleagues.

She said: "Yes, I have taken over the chairmanship (of the Cabinet committee on the cities) and there may be a need to bang a few heads together. One of the things is to get departments to co-operate."

On the Peter Wright book, Mrs Thatcher said she was

defending a point of principle.

"If we leave it so that any person in the security services can reveal any secret, can say anything about people formerly in the service or anybody else which might put them or their families' lives in danger, may say things about people long dead - however wounding or damaging to our country - and they can do all that without the Government trying to stop them, we are going to have no security services and that is going to be deeply damaging to the people of this country."

She played down worries on the poor trade figures. "If you look at the trading figures from the beginning of the year to now we are in surplus. We

have had four very good months and one bad month.

"Obviously we are watching the situation carefully but it was not a serious deficit."

It was then put to Mrs Thatcher that her revolution might be complete after two years, and she was asked whether she would want to stay on in what would be the post-Thatcher era.

She replied: "No I would not have completed it. You see we have to go on with the policy of spreading property ownership, share ownership, everything widely. We have to tackle this with legislation for a whole Parliament and after that there will still be other things to do."

Police refuse to pay bill of £49,000 in BT dispute

By John Spicer

Senior Scotland Yard officers are to meet British Telecom managers to discuss problems with communications, particularly in the City and central London, after a refusal by the Metropolitan Police to pay a £39,000 telephone bill.

The police are withholding rental after complaining to BT about inefficiency.

Scotland Yard's communications officers say they will not pay any rental for phones at the Leman Street police station, on the eastern edge of the City, but other stations are also having difficulties.

The law allows for telephone users to withhold their rental, or part of it, if they are unable to use the instrument for any period of time.

The problems have arisen for BT because of rising demand, new technology and difficulties with old equipment. Since Big Bang in the City, demand for telephone lines has doubled.

BT had projected for an initial increase in demand of up to 50 per cent by last October and then a levelling off. But demand had almost doubled by then and is still rising.

The City has 49 exchanges, and all are in the process of going over to the new digital System X.

So far 12 have been converted. Each one takes an average of three months to complete and overloads other areas while it is happening. Similar modernization is going on all over the country.

Mrs Vivienne Peters, director of the Telecom Users' Association membership services, said the organization had some sympathy with BT. But, she said, they were their own worst enemies when

it came to communicating with their customers.

"People in areas where this is going on are just left in the dark", she said.

"BT could easily warn and inform people of changes, or delays in their district."

The association says complaints against BT were increasing, but large firms usually coped because they had "clout". It was the private subscriber or small firm which suffered.

Mrs Peters said: "You do not hear of the big firm's troubles because as soon as it gets on to BT it gets a response. The big firms are the big spenders."

"It is quite amazing that the Metropolitan Police had to resort to refusing to pay a bill to get satisfaction."

BT said Big Bang and the increasing demand for telephone lines nearly everywhere was giving the corporation "real logistical problems". "A great deal of pressure is on us to get all the work done quickly all the time."

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Trade and Industry, warned the Post Office last night that he was prepared to suspend its letter service monopoly if the west London postal dispute spread.

He said the Post Office's exclusive privilege of providing a letter service must be continually justified and the Government had powers to suspend the monopoly.

"The monopoly is long established and we would not lightly suspend the privilege", he said. "I do not believe that the problems in London's west central district have yet reached the stage of sufficient gravity to justify that step."



The Prince of Wales yesterday with Mrs Valerie Makin, chaplain of St Marylebone Church, in the crypt which converted into a health centre (Photograph: Simon Grosset).

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Prince of Wales yesterday reaffirmed his support for complementary medicine when he opened Britain's first doctor's surgery run jointly by the National Health Service and the church.

The surgery, in the crypt of St Marylebone parish church, central London, combines orthodox and alternative medicines such as acupuncture and spiritual healing.

"It is crazy to throw the baby out with the bath water," the Prince said. "What we are doing is bringing the baby back."

His interest in complementary medicine first became clear when he was president of the British Medical Association. "I firmly believe

that so often people are unable to receive the kind of complementary treatment which in some circumstances can be extremely efficacious."

It has taken more than two years to convert the 10,000 sq ft crypt into a modern high-tech community medical centre which contains extensive computer facilities and a magnetic resonance imaging scanner.

Two general practitioners run a regular surgery, and the centre has a music therapy unit. The idea for the centre originally came from the parish rector, the Rev Christopher Hamel-Cooke, who has already raised more than £1 million to pay for the conversion.

Move over fishing legislation

Legislation to prevent foreign-owned fishing vessels registering under the British flag to claim a share of the United Kingdom fishing quota is to be introduced in the new parliamentary session (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

Mr John MacGregor, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said yesterday that tighter regulations would be included in the Merchant Shipping Bill.

He hinted that the regulations would apply to vessels already registered as "British" as well as to would-be new registrations.

The new regulations will demand that any company wishing to register a British fishing vessel will have to be largely owned and managed by British citizens resident in this country.

Surveillance duties for the maritime fisheries protection patrol, until now performed by RAF Nimrods, will in future be carried out by two new Dornier 228 aircraft operated under contract by FR Aviation of Bournemouth, Dorset.

Political murders rising in Ulster

By Richard Ford

The number of political murders in Ulster during the first seven months of this year has equalled the total for last year because of a more effective Provisional IRA campaign across the province.

Mr William Megrath, aged 46, a private in the Ulster Defence Regiment, became the latest victim when he was shot dead by a Provisional IRA sniper. Sixty-one people have been murdered this year.

Mr Megrath, a machine operator, married with two teenage children, was one of the few Roman Catholic members of the regiment and was killed as he travelled from work to his home in Lisburn, Co Antrim, on Thursday night. He is the seventh member of the regiment to die this year.

The ambush on Mr Megrath in the nationalist Twinbrook area of West Belfast demonstrates that the Provisionals are reorganised after a period in which their operations were few and security forces foiled their activities.

Bombings, shootings and

armed robberies have also risen sharply this year with IRA activity occurring in all of the province's six counties.

The movement was helped by Appeal Court judgements last year in which many people were released from custody after convictions on evidence from supergrasses were quashed.

Forty-four of this year's killings were the result of Provisional IRA action either against the security forces, civilians, alleged informers or when their own operations went wrong as at Loughall in Co Armagh when eight IRA terrorists were shot dead by the Special Air Services as they launched an attack on a Royal Ulster Constabulary station.

Eight members of the Irish National Liberation Army died early in the year during the vicious feud which tore the organisation apart.

Up until July 9, the security forces this year had recovered 2.7 tonnes of explosives, 113 firearms, 6,050 rounds of ammunition and 43 rocket and mortar launchers.

The appeal is due to start in the New South Wales Appeal Court on Monday.

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July 24 1987

PARLIAMENT

MP says BA holding pistol to the Government's head

British Airways was holding a pistol to the Government's head in its proposed merger with British Caledonian, Mr Anthony Steen (South Hants, C) said during a short debate in the Commons.

BA's message was: If you do not allow us to take over B-Cal immediately, without any reference to the public watchdogs, the company will go bust and our offer will lapse.

He said that it was prepared to pay three times B-Cal's market value because it wanted to buy a monopoly stake in the civil aviation industry. Sir Adam Thomson, the chairman of B-Cal, would be getting a golden handshake of between £2.5 million and £3 million and the institutional investors, 31 (investors in industry), stood to make £100 million.

Was the Government prepared to let a merger take place that would benefit Sir Adam and 31, would give the trade unions leverage on a monopoly and would be bad for the travelling public, bad for prices, bad for competition and bad for independent airlines?

He suspected that the timing of the announcement of the proposed takeover, just before



Mr Steen: BA wants monopoly stake

the House rose for the summer recess, had been designed to limit MPs' opportunities to debate and oppose the merger. Sir Peter Enderby (Hants, C) said that if the merger went ahead without reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission it would tear in half the Conservative policy of competition on which he had fought the last election.

He hoped that a solution

could be found that would allow B-Cal to remain in competition with BA because it was that element of competition which had made BA great.

The debate had been initiated by Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab), who said that he believed the Government would veto any suggestion from the Director General of Fair Trading to refer the bid to the MMC. Privatization had removed vast public monopolies, like BA, from the searchlight of public scrutiny. He was concerned to protect jobs.

Mr Terence Dicks (Hants and Harting, C) said the proposed merger would enable BA to compete more effectively in international markets.

Mr John Butcher, Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said that it was extraordinarily difficult for ministers publicly to share or denounce the views expressed by Mr Steen. Perhaps they could discuss it in the tea room.

The advice of the Director General of Fair Trading about whether the matter should be referred to the MMC was awaited. He could not express a view, and so prejudice whatever advice may be given.

Green belt conflicts

The Prime Minister's priority of rejuvenating the inner cities was being thwarted by the granting of planning permission on appeal in the green belt outside London, Mr Andrew MacKay (Berkshire East, C) told the Commons.

He said that if the Government wanted to rejuvenate the inner cities, it must discourage unreasonable development in the shire counties.

The Department of the Environment had bent over backwards to help developers, who naturally preferred building on a green field to reclaiming a difficult inner-city site.

If multi-national companies were told that there was no room in the Thames Valley, they would move to areas with a plentiful supply of labour.

Mrs Marion Roe, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said that there was no convincing evidence that restraint on development in economically active areas encouraged investment in less attractive ones.

"The danger is that the investment may be lost to this country altogether. Our policy is aimed at securing new investment in the inner cities, not in preventing investment in areas like Berkshire."

Prison inquiry call rejected

Mr John Patten, Minister of State, Home Office, turned down a call from Mr Gerald Bermingham (St Helens South, Lab) for a Royal Commission into prison overcrowding. Mr Patten said that calling for a Royal Commission was the last resort of politicians who had run out of intellectual steam. It was wrong to think that whistling a Royal Commission out of the air could solve all the problems. If more criminals were deterred there would be fewer prisoners and Mr Bermingham could make a constructive contribution to crime prevention by encouraging some of the Labour-controlled local authorities with police watch committees to work with the police instead of making their job more difficult.

Claim that Chile uses torture ships disputed

There was no evidence of former Royal Navy ships in Chile being used as torture centres, Mr David Mellor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in the Commons.

He was replying to Mr Patrick Wall (Bradford North, Lab), who said that a Chilean admiral, founder member of the junta, had "put his warships to use as prison and torture ships for civilians".

Mr Wall was complaining about the Government supplying arms to "the bloodstained dictatorship in Chile" and said that the admiral's crimes were "on a par with those committed by Klaus Barbie". Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab) said that people were being gunned down in the streets in Chile and the British Government was on the side of the murderers.

Mr Mellor said that the Government took great care not to approve the sale to Chile of items likely in its judgement to be used for internal repression. "We consider every application for arms sales to Chile and we refuse many. Our policy is a responsible one and in no way condones human rights abuses."

Britain had been disappointed at the lack of progress in the past on the peaceful restoration of democracy there, but there had been some positive signs in recent months.

First aid for sports events

The public had a right to expect a uniform standard of safety provision at all major sporting events, Mr Neil Thomas (Ilford South, C) said in a short debate.

The Home Office should ensure that safety arrangements were improved, particularly those concerning provision of first-aid equipment and personnel, without waiting for major disasters to occur.

Mr Douglas Hogg, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that it was for local authorities to determine the extent to which they wished to insist on the provision of emergency medical care.

He would consider whether it was desirable to write to local authorities to draw specific attention to their work.

Private sector invited to build prisons

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Private enterprise will be introduced into the prison building programme through a new Home Office board, Mr Douglas Hurd disclosed yesterday.

The Home Secretary told Crosby Conservative Association: "I am setting up a new Prison Building Board within the Home Office which will include private sector experts and advisers."

The board would superintend the more efficient delivery of the building programme. The Home Office initiates

the idea of building a prison and gets the money for it from the Treasury. The Property Services Agency, which will now be bypassed, looks after management of prison construction.

Mr Hurd said: "We must cut the time which it takes to plan and build prisons. Part of the problem lies in the time which it takes to gain planning permission. The public think that building prisons is a good thing - except in their patch."

"But there are a number of ways in which the design, control and management of major prison construction projects can be improved."

He had announced as a commitment the expansion and acceleration of the building programme. "But if I had told the House of Commons that action of this sort would be quick and substantial enough, without some reduction in the pressure on the prisons, then I would have been playing politics with the prison and police services."

He had announced an interim increase in remission from one-third to one-half for prisoners serving 12 months or less.

Mr Hurd said that unless further decisive action was taken "we risked the breakdown of control in one or

more of our prisons".

Last week there were 625 police officers in London and more than 200 in the provinces diverted from their normal duties for the housing of prisoners in police cells.

"As the strain on them rises during the summer, police officers at all levels have quite justifiably pointed out to me that it was dangerous for them to shoulder indefinitely the job of acting as a safety valve for the prison system."

"A senior officer should not ever be faced with a choice between failing to police some sudden major event or abandoning prisoners placed in his care", Mr Hurd said.

Prime Minister
Wright
ban case
may go
to Lord
murders
Ulster
ted to build

Political pundits see little hope of a comeback

Archer wins battle but his long war may be lost for ever

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Jeffrey Archer may have won his libel suit against *The Star* newspaper, but there were few at Westminster yesterday who believed he could now, once again, pick up the pieces of an aborted political career.

As associates pointed out, his resignation as deputy chairman of the Conservative party last October was not over allegations that he had slept with the prostitute Miss Monica Coghlan — allegations he has now successfully disproved.

He resigned because he had been foolish enough to pay Miss Coghlan £2,000 to go abroad to avoid any possible scandal. "For that lack of judgement and that alone, I have tendered my resignation," he said at the time.

Though he has continued to tour constituencies on behalf of the Conservative Party since his resignation and will doubtless carry on doing so, that same lack of judgement effectively destroys any chance of him ever again holding an official Conservative post.

The most he could hope for, after the lapse of a very decent interval, is a perage for services to the party.

But what, in fact, were his political prospects? In the course of the trial it was disclosed that Mr Archer had told Mr David Montgomery, then editor of *The News of the World*, that if the story broke his political career would be ruined.

"I believe I have an outside chance of being chairman of the party if this thing dies. I believe I have an outside chance of doing some work in my life that I will be proud of," he said.

Party sources dismiss the idea of Mr Archer ever being party chairman as complete fantasy, unworthy even of an Archer novel, and point to the nature of his role as deputy chairman.

He played no part in party administration, in policy formulation, or in political strategy. When Mr Norman Tebbit, the party chairman was away, it was Central Office apparatchiks, not Mr Archer, who ran the show.

He was effectively banned from talking about politics to the media following a series of gaffes in his first few weeks in the job (the unemployed, he said, should "get off their backsides" as he had done).

He was appointed personally by Mrs Thatcher in 1985 purely for his public relations talents.

In that role the likeable Mr Archer, the archetypal Thatcherite self-made millionaire, was a huge success. He spoke at hundreds of constituency party meetings. He was the darling of the Tory blue-rinsed media. He raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for party coffers.

It was a job — unpaid — that he loved. It gave him access to the Prime Minister and inner party circles. It was never, however, a route to political advancement.

There was a time when Mr Archer appeared to have a glittering political future. He entered the Commons following a by-election in Louth, Lincolnshire, in 1969 as the youngest MP. He was aged 29.

Raised in a middle-class home in Somerset, he had been educated at Wellington School and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he made his name by signing up the Beatles for a charity concert.

He had sprinted for England. He had served as a GLC councillor (needless to say, the youngest). His business interests (his company, Arrow Enterprises, ran major publicity events) were good and he was widely regarded as a rising star.

At the Commons, however, he dissipated a lot of goodwill through brashness. "He was obviously full of energy and ideas, but he was never ever backward in putting them forward and he put a few people's backs up," a senior party figure from that period recalled.

After five years in Parliament he was still regarded as possible ministerial material, but had not been made a Parliamentary Private Secretary, the first rung on the government ladder.

Then came his first fall from grace. Acting on a dud tip he invested £427,000, some of it borrowed money, in a Canadian company called Aquablast. Suddenly he faced bankruptcy.

He sold his Daimler and Chelsea home. He told his party whips that while he hoped to pull through he did not want to embarrass his party and so would not be fighting the coming election in October 1974.

Mr Archer did pull through. His wife, Mary, had a don's salary from Newnham College, Cambridge. Drawing on his own experiences, he produced his first novel, *Not A Penny More Not A Penny Less*, in 10 weeks.

It was the first of a string of huge bestsellers that have sold nearly 30 million copies in 84 countries and made him a millionaire many times over.

"He is the best selling paperback author in Britain," says his agent, Mrs Deborah Owen, wife of the SDP leader David. "His first American editor once said that the thing that he puts the reader on an express train and it is impossible to get off till the end."

Mr Archer, his wife and two sons, now have a flat in the City of London and, as their main home, the old vicarage at Grantham, near Cambridge.

As soon as he was financially solvent, and with something approaching celebrity status, he began unobtrusively to speak around the country in support of Conservative MPs.

Mrs Thatcher, who is said to enjoy his novels, appreciated his work for the party. To the surprise and amusement of many, she appointed him deputy chairman.

Within no time he had caused a minor political furor on the eve of a party conference by criticizing workshy youngsters during a BBC radio interview and suggesting that many of the unemployed did not want to work. Barely had that row died down than he caused another by asking "Would you buy a used car from this government?"

Mr Archer's point was that the Conservative Party had to be "sold" like any other product, but it turned out to be yet another example of the lack of judgement at critical moments.

As one senior Tory said yesterday: "He gets things wrong, but then does exactly the right thing about it. Unfortunately the Prime Minister doesn't want her people to get things wrong in the first place."

Mr Archer may now have made one error of judgement too many. On the other hand, he has time and again made those critics who have written him off eat their words. He may yet do so again.

Leading article, page 9

A high cost on both sides

By Paul Valley

In the public gallery, one American mused: "I don't know — he kinda looks like Gary Hart."

Mr Archer has been accorded a favourable judgement by his peers and can justifiably claim that his name has been cleared.

But there is no way, he will be forced to admit to himself, that his good name can ever be restored to pristine condition.

The case, whatever else it did, served also to underline what his own QC could not avoid calling his "monumental folly" in paying a large sum of money to a woman with whom, the jury decided, he did not have sexual intercourse.

In addition there will always be the residual memory of those concessions he was forced to make under cross-examination.

There will also be the indignity of the public memory of those conversations he had on the eve of publication with the editor of *The News of the World*, Mr Archer, then deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, was reduced to begging that the damaging story should not be published.

Even the award of substantial damages cannot entirely erase the impression left by Mr Archer in the witness box. Occasionally his self-assurance crossed over into a rather unattractive cockiness, his politician's tendency to make

speeches in response to cross-examination sounded dangerously like pomposity and his thriller-writer's sense of the dramatic pushed him into cheap melodrama. "I had what I believe is known as an alibi," he pronounced at one point with the air of an actor delivering an Act One curtain line.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, counsel for Mr Archer, referred at one point to the evidence of Mr Aziz Kurtha, the prime mover of the allegations, who first recorded them in a singularly humourless article for *Private Eye*.

Mr Alexander observed rather sardonically: "He said he was colourblind and assumed that the car was red, brown or green; given three possibilities, like a good journalist he chose green."

Not that Mr Kurtha was a professional journalist. He was a wealthy Pakistani solicitor based in Lincoln's Inn Fields but whose clientele was primarily Middle Eastern.

His family owned substantial amounts of property and Mr Kurtha was able to lead the life of a playboy, driving around town in a Mercedes, frequenting casinos and dealing occasionally with a top class prostitute.

But he also dabbled in journalism, doing a little work as a presenter of a Channel 4 Asian programme and purvey-

ing the odd gossip little story around Fleet Street. It was he who was the source of all the unsubstantiated claims that Mr Archer had been seen with the prostitute.

The account of the supposed encounter which he produced for submission to *Private Eye* (and which the magazine had the surprising good taste or legal sense not to use) was filled with little embellishments which he frankly acknowledged, were included with no greater purpose than to make it more amusing.

He gave this evidence, as he did most of his testimony, with the insolent frivolity of a spoiled schoolboy whose parents are so wealthy that he does not need to take seriously the occasional carpeting by the headmaster. It was the attitude which, clearly, dominated his forays into the world of journalism.

The editor of *The Star*, referred to throughout by Mr Alexander as "the silent Mr Lloyd Turner", attempted no such sophistry. In his concluding speech Mr Archer's counsel listed some of the questions he would have asked if Mr Turner had taken the stand. They sounded rather awkward.

Silence in this case was, perhaps, a better policy than honesty. It may well be that a good many of the other main players in the case would say, with hindsight, agree.

Up to £300 million is to be spent on a clean-up of beaches in the south-west of Britain, it was announced yesterday.

The South-West Water Authority is to spend the money over the next 10 to 15 years to bring the area's 103 EEC monitored beaches into line with European standards.

Last year 25 beaches failed to comply with directives. Nine of these, from Lyme Regis in Dorset to Bude in North Cornwall, are already earmarked for

improvement in the authority's capital programme.

Although holidaymakers from all over Britain will benefit, the cost will fall on South-West Water's 700,000 paying customers. They face hefty rates rises over the next four years to improve and maintain almost one-third of the total number of European monitored beaches in the United Kingdom.

At a press conference in Exeter yesterday, it was said that 50 per cent of

average of 19 per cent pollution.

The 15 miles of shoreline that belong to Pisa are almost 40 per cent polluted. Anywhere close to the mouth of a river and those places where city sewage spills out is predictably unsuitable for bathing. Watch out for Car-



Mr Jeffrey Archer in 1969, giving his wife Mary a kiss after winning the Louth by-election



... winning the 100 yards sprint in an Oxford versus Cambridge universities race in 1965



... and with Mr Norman Tebbit after becoming deputy chairman of the Conservative Party.

The summing up in court

Judge is forced by defence counsel to correct errors

A dramatic intervention in the Jeffrey Archer libel case just as the judge was about to send the jury out to consider its verdict was made by the counsel for the defence yesterday.

Moments before the jury was about to leave, Mr Michael Hill, QC, who is representing *The Star*, rose to interrupt and challenge a number of factual errors in the judge's summary.

He began by suggesting that the jury should have been directed on the importance of "the lies told by Mr Archer to Mr Adam Raphael", then political editor of *The Observer*.

Mr Raphael had testified that on the day the *News of the World* first printed a story about Mr Archer and a prostitute, Mr Archer told him he had indeed met the woman. Later Mr Archer issued a statement denying the fact.

At this point Mr Robert Alexander, QC, counsel for Mr Archer, intervened to ask the judge whether such a submission was proper. In a whispered aside directed at Mr Hill personally he told him that the remark was "absolutely disgraceful".

The judge then sent the jury from the court room.

When the jury returned the judge thanked Mr Hill for his assistance and told the jurors that he was making an addendum to his summing up. It covered eight factual errors in his earlier remarks.

"I think in a summing up on over seven hours errors can creep in, so I'm going to alert you to mistakes or inaccuracies in my summing up," he said.

He then made corrections in nine areas, all concerned with witnesses called in *The Star's* defence.

He also made clarifications on whether he had correctly repeated the remarks of one of the journalists who had given evidence.

Mr Nicholas Constable, of *Today*, the judge said, had been fairly confident of his memory that Mr Archer claimed that on the night in

question he was at a meeting. He did not say that Mr Archer "could have said meeting," as the judge had said yesterday.

The final point, he told the jury, concerned his review of the evidence of Mr Tony Dawe, formerly of the *Daily Express*, who testified that Mr Archer had offered yet another alibi involving a late night meeting with the Chief Whip.

Earlier the judge had suggested that this evidence was refuted by Mr Archer's statement that the Chief Whip was never in his office so late.

The judge told the jury that in fact Mr Dawe had never said the meeting was in the Chief Whip's office. The judge said he had "misquoted" the evidence by attributing Mr Archer's location to Mr Dawe.

There were also three points of law, he said, which the jury should know about.

The Star's defence was "justification". The law was that this defence did not fail just because every detail in the

story was not proved. The substantial point was: did Mr Archer have sex with the prostitute.

The jury could ignore all the other details in the story about Miss Coghlan's other clients, 90 per cent of whom wanted sex of a deviant nature "even if you think that parts of the article are plainly untrue and possibly false".

On *The News of the World*, he said, Mr Archer was suing that paper separately. No damages, he said, could be awarded for the grief and anguish suffered by Mr Archer in the week between the publication of the original *News of the World* article and *The Star's* later allegations.

"I should also have told you on the issue of identification there could be other evidence," which supported the identification. "If you concluded that Archer has deliberately and falsely concocted

an alibi you could take that into account."

Mr Hill intervened again, at this point, to remind the judge of another matter — the degree of conflict between Mrs Archer and Mr Raphael. Earlier in his summing up the judge said that this conflict was "not very serious" and had attributed to Mrs Archer a phrase which was actually Mr Raphael's.

Before the intervention by Mr Hill, the judge had told the jury that if they found for Mr Archer they should not award a massive amount of damages out of a sense of devilment. On the other hand, he said, they should be large enough to send a message to the world that the accusations were false.

"Make your award sensible. But that does not mean the award will be low because it is sensible. It could be very high."

"Don't worry whether *The Star* newspaper has the money. Just make your award."

The amount should be fixed as a figure which was fair compensation for Mr Archer rather than punishment for *The Star*, however.

One factor they should take into account about the libel, the judge said, was: "How filthy is it? Is it merely a report of the contact between Archer and a prostitute? Or has the writer used his imagination? Certainly according to Miss Coghlan he has."

The assessment should be based on the pain and anguish and suffering caused to Mr Archer. The jury could not award damages to Mrs Archer but it could take into account the effects it would have on her husband to see his wife also carrying the cross.

There were two other elements which merited consideration, if they decided to find for Mr Archer. Were aggravated damages warranted because *The Star* had persisted in carrying the case through to the bitter end, and in a more minor way, had further damage been done to Mr Archer by the "blatant" banner headline on *The Star's* coverage of the trial?

way near prime tourist spots. Some of the seawater analysis reads like a chemist's shelf: mercury, lead, cadmium and various nitrates.

The chemicals are sometimes only present in trace quantities and the "no bathing" rosettes awarded by the environmentalists may be erring on the side of caution.

Certainly many tourist authorities think so and are not putting up their own "bathing prohibited" signs.

Some of the top tourist spots — Rimini, Sardinia (top of the league) and even the Venice Lido — emerge rather well, give or take a few algae. There the trick is to survive the sand with its teaming mass of sunbathers, rather than the sea.

The overall results show that too many chemicals have been released, especially by factories, in an uncontrolled

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Sheffield murder trial

The last words of a loving mistress 'in suicide pact'

By Ian Smith

Ian Wood and his French-born mistress sat in the kitchen of their country home discussing how she and her two children should die, he told a jury at Sheffield Crown Court yesterday.

Sleeping tablets were discounted as impracticable because although her son Christopher, aged five, might unknowingly swallow them, his two-year-old sister Stephanie would have to be held and the tablets forced down her throat.

So instead Wood, a solicitor, aged 38, volunteered to use a gun to kill the woman he loved and the two children who called him "Poppa".

Giving evidence on the fourth day of his trial, Wood, a Law Society branch secretary, told how emotional and financial difficulties had left him and his lover "crushed, beaten down and isolated".

He said that when Danielle Lloyd, aged 38, who was expecting the couple's baby, proposed suicide as the only way out he agreed immediately.

Wood told how Mrs Lloyd was stricken after overhearing a threat by her husband to deprive her of the two children she loved above all else.

After a 10-minute discussion about how their lives should end Wood had sexual intercourse with Mrs Lloyd who whispered "Je t'aime" seconds before she was shot in the back of the head at point blank range.

He then carried Stephanie into a bedroom, killed her and lured Christopher into the bathroom to play hide and seek and shot him while the youngster lay on the floor with a towel over his head.

Wood, of Ughill Hall, Bradford, near Chester, has pleaded guilty to murdering Stephanie and attempting to murder Christopher but denied murdering his mother. Instead he has pleaded man-

slaughter on the grounds that they had entered into a suicide pact.

Wood also admits stealing £84,000 from clients although the prosecution alleges he misappropriated more than £150,000.

Yesterday the part-time Tax Commission clerk admitted he had defrauded legal clients of approximately £180,000.

In evidence he told how he had juggled clients' mortgage accounts after stealing their money, and then seen the phones world he had created collapse in ruins.

He said that while he came to terms with the reality of having to make a confession to police, Mrs Lloyd, who to the outside world was her normal breezy self, was an appalling mental wreck.

Describing the shootings Wood told jurors: "They were leaving all the pain and suffering and going to somewhere where we would be free."

"We truly believed we were leaving all the pain and suffering and going to somewhere where we would be free."

Eight days after the shootings Wood was seen clinging to a gurgling 200lb above Amiens Cathedral threatening suicide.

While a priest and two policemen tried to talk him down the square below was crowded with villagers urging him to jump.

But Wood did not. Instead after six hours he crawled along the parapet to safety and surrendered to police. To have jumped to his death, he told the court, would have been the final act of a circus clown.

Under cross-examination he admitted he had not tried to dissuade Mrs Lloyd from her suicide pact nor had she chosen to kiss goodbye to the children whose lives she had agreed to sacrifice.

The case continues on Monday.

Criticism over news for TV-am

By Ruth Gledhill

TV-am's news coverage has been criticised by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The authority says in its mid-term review of TV-am, which is half-way through its eight-year contract, that there needs to be some improvements in the range, speed and authority of news coverage.

It also advised the independent morning television station to show more caution when using material related to advertisements.

The authority, the regulatory body for independent television, has urged TV-am to draw a stricter line between news and public relations material and to adhere more closely to a section of the Broadcasting Act that deals with advertising.

It has also criticized TV-am's coverage of sport and religious affairs.

The authority called for improvements in the use of regional facilities and greater use of specialist reporters.

"The authority is disappointed with the weekly coverage of sport, especially the absence of sport on Sundays, and its research findings indicate that improvements in this area would find an appreciative audience," the IBA writes in the review, which was published this week.

It adds that in regard to religion, the "company has not yet demonstrated real determination to fulfil its original declaration of intent" and that it has still to achieve a "topical religious segment".

TV-am accepted the points and is already working to expand news and current affairs coverage, a spokesman said.

He showed investigators how, since 1972, he had been falsifying value added tax returns, pocketing students' fees and covering his tracks by destroying documents.

Mr David Evans, for the defence, said: "To have stopped would have revealed the fraud, as it eventually did."

"When he was found out, he felt an upsurge of relief. This man is now penniless."

● A typist accused of dishonestly handling more than £900,000 was remanded on bail until October 2 at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

Gloria McGuire, aged 52, is charged with dishonestly handling £931,702 between February 1974 and December 1986 for the benefit of her husband Charles McGuire, knowing or believing it to be stolen.

'Double life' man took £1.4m

For more than 20 years Charles McGuire led a double life as a modestly paid accountant and a big spending jetsetter.

He turned his dreams of wealth into reality by stealing £1.4 million and spending most of it on luxury living.

The Central Criminal Court heard yesterday how he was regarded as a conscientious, meticulous and scrupulously honest chief accountant at Pim's Secretarial College in Bloomsbury, central London.

But in reality he loved the good life, flying Concorde to the United States, buying £500 suits, staying in five-star hotels and driving luxury cars.

McGuire, aged 54, of Dover Street, Westminster, central London, admitted nine specimen charges of theft and was jailed for six years.

Mr Rodger Hayward-Smith, for the prosecution, told the court that McGuire was earning £13,000 a year when he was made redundant in May 1985, and by then was stealing more than £50,000 a year from the college, mostly in cash fees paid by students.

Judge Kenneth Machin said it was a tragedy to see McGuire in the dock.

"You were in a position of trust and you abused that trust year-in and year-out. The fact is that these sums were taken simply so you could enjoy a high and extravagant life outside work," he said.

Mr Hayward-Smith told the court that McGuire's dishonesty was not discovered until he was made redundant and an audit during reorganization revealed losses of £150,000.

When McGuire was interviewed he astounded directors by confessing that his thefts amounted to £1.4 million.

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The 'disease of sloppiness' blamed for Herald disaster

By Rodney Cowton and David Sapsted

The underlying faults for the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster were yesterday blamed on "the disease of sloppiness" that ran through all levels of Townsend Thoresen management.

But the master, chief officer and assistant boatswain were directly responsible for the "errors of omission" that led to the March 6 tragedy, in which at least 188 people died, said the judge heading the inquiry into the ferry disaster.

Mr Justice Sheen said: "A full investigation into the circumstances of the disaster leads inexorably to the conclusion that the underlying or cardinal faults lay higher up the company".

Outlining the events of Friday, March 6, Mr Justice Sheen said the Herald set sail at 18.05 GMT from berth 12 at the Belgium port of Zeebrugge with 459 passengers and 80 crew on board.

She capsized just over 20 minutes later after water poured in through her open bow doors. A shallow sand bank was the only reason the ship did not sink completely.

The reason the vessel capsized was because the inner and outer bow doors had not been shut, though there was no reason to believe there was any mechanical malfunction.

Although the Herald operated with one officer less on the Zeebrugge run than it did on the Dover-Calais service there was "no reason why the Herald could not have been safely and efficiently operated on the Dover-Zeebrugge run with this number of officers, if proper thought had been given to the organization of their duties".

There was, however, pressure on the chief officer, Mr Leslie Sabel, who was in charge of loading the ferry and ensuring the bow doors were shut, to return to his harbour station on the bridge as soon as possible, illustrating that the company's standing orders displayed "a lack of proper thought".

The Herald also set sail on its last voyage between 250-270 tonnes heavier than its original design specification because of modifications and the collection of various stores. Although the inquiry did not find overloading to be a cause of the tragedy, it demonstrates the need for more information about the weight of cargo to be loaded and the desirability of fitting draught indicators.

On the evening of March 6, Captain David Lewry did not follow the practice, which he described, of restricting speed so that water did not come above the spade (at the ship's

● The company's standing orders displayed a lack of proper thought ●

bow). Mr Justice Sheen said, it was calculated that the Herald could have been approaching its ultimate speed of 18 knots when disaster struck. Tests on a model and on one of the Herald's sister ships showed the water could be two metres above the spade at such a speed.

A large quantity of water entered G deck, said the report, causing an initial lurch to port of up to 30 degrees. It stabilized briefly before it started to topple, more slowly, until it was at more than 90 degrees.

"From the outset, Mr Mark Stanley, who was the assistant boatswain, has accepted that it was his duty to close the bow doors at the time of departure from Zeebrugge and that he failed to carry out this duty", said the judge.

Instead, he was asleep in his cabin and "will, no doubt, suffer remorse for a long time to come". If Townsend Thoresen decided it was appropriate to take action against him, it could do so under the code of conduct for the merchant navy, the judge added.

In fairness to Mr Stanley, Mr Justice Sheen pointed out that after the ship capsized, he played an important part in rescuing passengers.

The boatswain, Mr Terry Ayling, was believed to be the last person to leave deck and he was criticized by the court for having a narrow interpretation of his duties because he left without seeing anyone was present to close the doors.

However, Mr Ayling was also praised for the "exemplary" way he organized the rescue operation immediately after the sinking.

Mr Justice Sheen said the court was not wholly con-

● There was pressure to leave 15 minutes early to reduce delays ●

vinced the truth had emerged about how second officer Mr Paul Morter came to be relieved of his duty as loading officer by Mr Sabel.

Mr Sabel's evidence, especially that he believed he saw Mr Stanley heading towards the door control panel as the ship sailed, had been challenged and "it is important to bear in mind the physical injuries and shock suffered by Mr Sabel", the judge said.

He added: "The precise facts are of no consequence because Mr Sabel failed to carry out his duty to ensure that the bow doors were closed. He was seriously negligent by reason of that failure. "Of all the many faults which combined to lead directly or indirectly to this tragic disaster, that of Mr Leslie Sabel was the most immediate. This court cannot condone such irresponsible conduct. For this reason, his certificate of competency must be suspended."

There was no reason why a loading officer should not have remained on deck until the three-minute operation to close the doors was complete, although the inquiry heard evidence that there was pressure from Townsend Thoresen to leave Zeebrugge 15 minutes early to reduce delays being encountered at Dover.

"The court was left in no doubt that deck officers felt that there was no time to be wasted. The company took no proper steps to ensure that the chief officer remained until the bow doors were closed."

"On March 6 they were running late. The Herald sailed late. This may have contributed to Mr Sabel's decision to leave G deck before the arrival of Mr Stanley", the judge said.

He went on to say that, as master of the ship, Captain Lewry was responsible for the safety of everyone on board. "Captain Lewry took the Herald to sea with the bow doors fully open. It follows that Captain Lewry must accept personal responsibility for the loss of his ship."

In mitigation, Mr Justice Sheen said it had to be borne in mind that Captain Lewry was only operating the same system as other masters on the Herald, and that the ship's standing orders made no reference to closing the bow and stern doors.

Also, there had been five previous occasions when one of the company's ships had proceeded with either bow or

stern doors open, and that Townsend Thoresen management had not made the incidents known to their captains.

The judge suspended Captain Lewry's certificate of competency, and said: "The fact that other masters operated the same defective system does not relieve Captain Lewry of his personal responsibility for taking his ship to sea in an unsafe condition."

The Herald's senior master, Captain John Kirby, was also criticized for failing to issue clear and concise instructions about the operation of the doors. He should have introduced a fail-safe system but, instead, accepted without demur the company's defective standing orders.

"Captain Kirby was one of many masters who failed to apply their minds to those orders and to take steps to have them clarified. Captain Kirby must bear his share of the responsibility for the disaster", said the judge.

But the "underlying and cardinal faults" leading to the tragedy had to be laid at door of management, he added. The board of directors did not understand their responsibilities for the safe management of their ships.

Nobody applied their mind to questions of safety, and there was a lack of thought about how the Herald should operate on the Zeebrugge service.

Mr Justice Sheen said: "All concerned in management, from the members of the board of directors down to the junior superintendents, were guilty of fault in that all must be regarded as sharing responsibility for the failure of management. From top to bottom, the body corporate was infected with the disease of sloppiness."

The court was "singularly unimpressed" with the evidence given to the inquiry of

● The shore management took very little notice of their captains ●

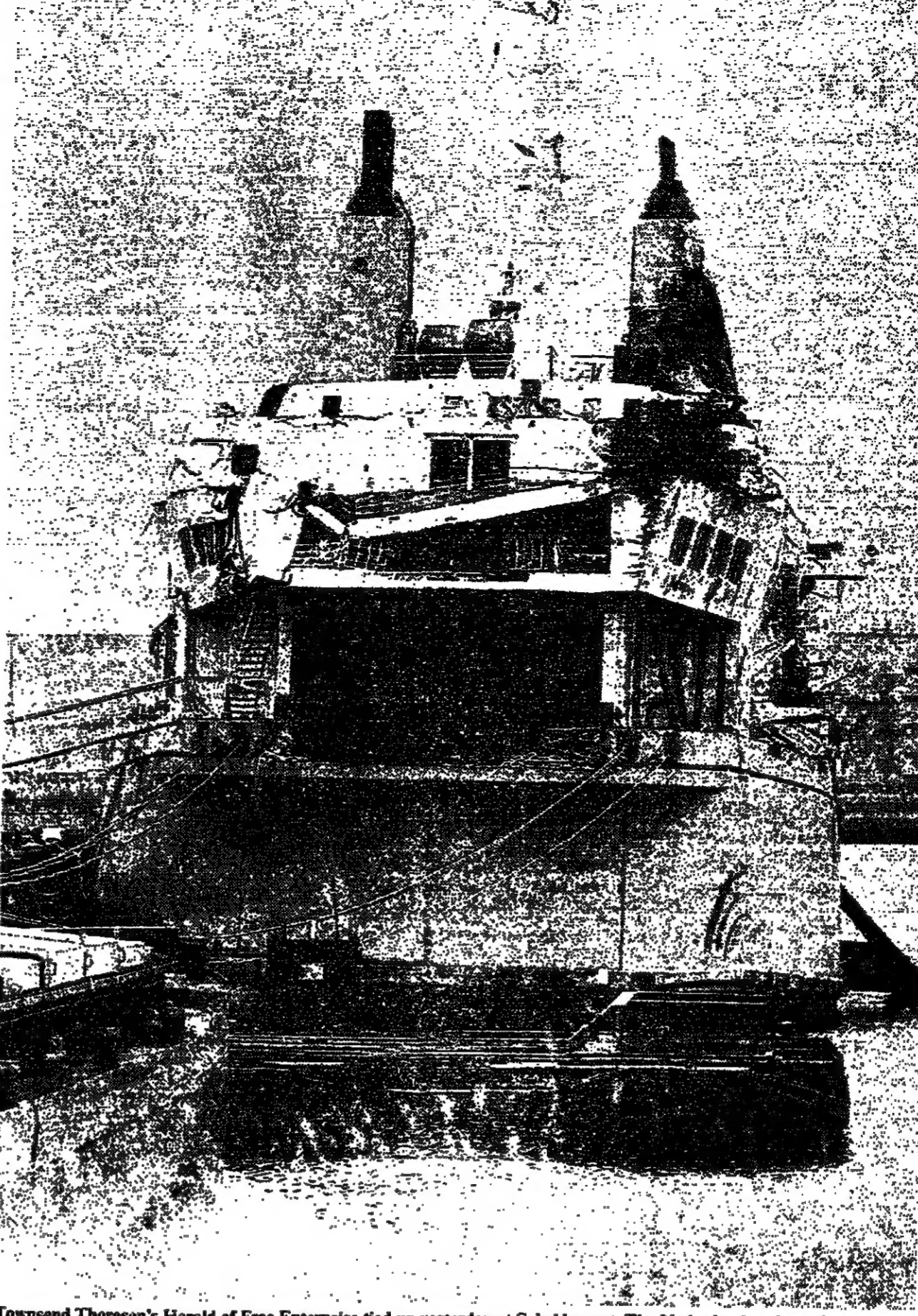
Mr Tony Young, operations director, and then-technical director, Mr Jimmy Ayers, who has since retired. There was an abdication of responsibility and a failure to give clear orders, said the judge, who described Mr Ayers' evidence to the inquiry as "verbose, rambling and at times misleading".

The judge said: "Clear instructions are the foundation of a safe system of operation. It was the failure to give clear orders about the duties of the officers on the Zeebrugge run which contributed so greatly to the cause of this disaster."

He went on to say that Townsend Thoresen's chairman, Mr Peter Ford, had only taken office shortly before the disaster, and that he had "very favourably impressed" the inquiry with the steps he had taken since March 6 to overcome the "malaise" that had infected the company's management.

Mr Jeffrey Develin, formerly the company's chief marine superintendent and now a director, was responsible for the safe operation of the ships. As the inquiry unfolded, said the judge, it became clear that shore management took very little notice of what they were told by their captains.

Complaints by masters about ships setting to sea with too many passengers; calls for the fitting of bridge warning lights to show the bow doors were closed; warnings that draught marks could not be



Townsend Thoresen's Herald of Free Enterprise tied up yesterday at Scheldepoort, The Netherlands, where she has been awaiting her fate since being raised from the seabed by the Dutch salvage company Smit Tak (Photograph: Tim Bishop).



Captain David Lewry
The master

● He must accept the personal responsibility for the loss of his ship ●

read; and proposals to fit high-capacity pumps to get rid of excessive ballast at Zeebrugge were all ignored in what Mr Justice Sheen described as "staggering complacency".

Proposals sent by a captain for the fitting of bridge lights were circulated by Mr Develin to other managers, the judge said, and were greeted by a string of fatuous comments



Mr Leslie Sabel
Chief officer

● Of all the many faults, that of Mr Sabel was the most immediate ●

including: "Do they need an indicator to tell them whether the deck storekeeper is awake and sober?"

Mr Justice Sheen said that remark was "either ominously prescient or showed an awareness of this type of incident in the past".

He added: "If the sensible suggestion that indicator lights be installed had received, in



Mr Mark Stanley
Assistant boatswain

● He failed to carry out his duty to close the bow doors ●

1985, the serious consideration which it deserved, it is at least possible that they could have been fitted in the early months of 1986 and this disaster might well have been prevented."

Despite all that had happened, Mr Justice Sheen said the court was "clearly of the opinion that no statutory offence has been committed". It



Captain John Kirby
Senior master

● He accepted without demur the company's defective standing orders ●

was not an offence to go to sea with bow doors open and existing laws did not cover the positioning of doors, porches or any other covers.

He said: "If it is the view of Parliament that the taking to sea of a ro-ro ferry with her bow or stern doors open ought to be a criminal offence, then Parliament must enact the appropriate legislation."

Inquiry calls for safety research

The inquiry produced wide ranging recommendations for ensuring higher standards of safety on passenger roll-on roll-off ferries.

These include examination of the use of bulkheads to enable damaged ferries to survive longer if water gets into them, the possibility of introducing licences for ferry operators, and measures to raise the level of the car deck above sea-level.

It calls for urgent research into the future design of ferries.

Leaving the bow doors open is only one of several ways by which water in quantity may gain access to the main car deck. The most likely cause must be side damage resulting from a collision.

Cross Channel ferries operate in a high-risk environment, as many have to cross the main shipping lanes.

The report says that all measures to improve survivability of ferries will affect the cost of the ship. It says the freeboard (the distance between sea level and the car deck) should be increased.

The report warns that transverse bulkheads "could constitute a grave penalty against the operation of a ferry for its primary purpose".

Nevertheless, it calls for a feasibility exercise to be carried out into the practical details of such divisions and their effect upon commercial operations. Another possibility is the fitting of portable bulkheads.

The report also calls for measures to reduce the risk of water on the main car deck flooding on to lower decks, and seeks improved pumping systems for removing water.

Regarding the new management which has been introduced at Townsend Thoresen since the disaster, the report says the company has shown a determination to put its house in order.

The court questions the value of lifeboats on passenger ferries because of the possibility of a swift capsizing.

"There are obvious advantages in drastically reducing the number of lifeboats carried and thereby saving space and reducing weight. In their place a large number of life rafts could be carried with advantage."

The report turns to allegations that false evidence was made in ships' log books and says: "There should be a requirement that the departure draughts must be entered in the deck log book as well as the official log book."

The court of inquiry hopes the possible licensing of passenger ferry operators will receive serious consideration.

There are some recommended safety measures, which are comparatively inexpensive, and which appear to be so eminently desirable that this country should take unilateral action.

Those subjects calling for immediate action relate to the safety of the ship, the loading and stability of the ship, and the saving of life in an emergency.

Indicator lights to show that bow and stern doors have been closed are now required. The entire indicator light system should be designed on a fail-safe basis so that if there were an electrical failure in any switch circuit, the system would indicate danger.

Closed circuit television to monitor cargo spaces should be fitted.

At some berths some ferries cannot shut their doors before the ramp has been raised. "All berths on UK routes should be altered so that ships with clam shell doors or normal stern doors are able to shut their doors before leaving the berth."

The report refers to the difficulty, of reading the 'aft draught on many ferries, and says that draught gauges or indicators should be a requirement for roll-on roll-off passenger ferries.

In view of the uncertainty as to the actual weight of many freight vehicles, port authorities should provide rolling weighbridges.

As a matter of urgency, self-contained emergency lighting of a type which is watertight, and if submerged will remain alight until the batteries run down, should be fitted to all roll-on roll-off ferries.

In general the design of slab-sided vessels should be discouraged. They eliminate escape routes and embarkation stations often have to be on the top deck, which is very high above the water.

Labour MPs claim that ship's officers are being made scapegoats

Labour MPs accused the Government of a whitewash and said that the ship's officers of the Herald of Free Enterprise are being made scapegoats.

When Mr Paul Channon made a statement to the Commons on the official report on the disaster, they said that Townsend Thoresen was getting off scot-free and called for criminal proceedings against the company.

One Conservative MP said the company should be closed down and another said that its management was rotten to the core and that people would be dismayed that it was still sailing.

Having outlined the main findings of the report, Mr Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, said that it contained recommendations to improve the safety of ro-ro ferries.

He went on: "These are divided into those for immediate action, those for action in the near future and those for action in the longer term. Many are of major importance."

I will be discussing the report and its recommendations with representatives of

the ferry operators and port industry next week.

However, there are certain measures that I can now announce. I am straightaway undertaking the necessary statutory consultations to make mandatory the following:

The fitting of indicator lights to show the position of superstructure doors; the fitting of closed-circuit television monitors for surveillance of the car deck doors to be monitored from the bridge; the provision of self-contained emergency lighting units.

I propose that these requirements will be applied to all passenger vessels operating to or from UK ports, regardless of flag.

I am consulting the industry, as a matter of urgency, on three further measures recommended in the report: The fitting of draught gauges; the fitting of load indicators; the design of windows, including the use of toughened or laminated glass.

The court considers that it would be possible to introduce a system under which every passenger has a boarding card. I shall be pursuing this proposal with the ferry operators.

I shall be pursuing the suggestion in the report for making greater use of weighbridges for improving information supplied to masters about the weight of vehicles loading on to ferries.

In addition I shall examine with the industry the problems which can arise when the design of a berth makes it physically impossible for a vessel to close its loading doors before it has pulled away.

In his statement on March 9 immediately following the disaster, my predecessor announced that the department's surveyors were embarking on a programme of checks on roll-on roll-off ferries in UK ports to ensure that all loading door mechanisms were in working order and that officers and crew were aware of the correct operating procedure.

I can announce today that these arrangements will be extended to include random checks on ferries to ensure that statutory requirements about loading, stability and passenger numbers are being observed.

In the longer term, the court recommended detailed in-

vestigations and model tests with a view to increasing the stability of ro-ro passenger ferries, and to examine the implications of the provisions of bulkheads on vehicle decks.

My department is therefore making available an additional £1 million to support an enhanced programme of research into this difficult area.

During the hearings, different views were expressed about whether or not the act of taking a vessel to sea with its bow doors open constituted an offence under the Merchant Shipping Acts.

The court was clearly of the opinion that no statutory offence had been committed (Labour protests). This disaster has demonstrated the appalling consequences that can follow when a ferry proceeds to sea with its bow doors open, and in my view, this should be a criminal offence.

I shall therefore include in the Merchant Shipping Bill, which I intend to introduce in Parliament after the recess, a provision to strengthen the law in this respect.

Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition spokesman on transport, said that Mr Justice

Sheen's report emphasized a horrifying state of affairs.

"The Herald of Free Enterprise was a latter day Titanic, wrecked on an iceberg of Department of Transport indifference, managerial incompetence and working methods designed apparently only in the interest of shortening turn-around times, regardless of the risk to passengers and crew."

The recommendation for the suspension of two crew members was deplorable. They were operating arrangements approved by management. Those same arrangements were probably adhered to by most other principle officers in the Townsend Thoresen fleet.

Mr Channon said that he did not accept the criticisms of the Department of Transport.

The view of the court, as far as the company was concerned, was that no statutory offence had been committed. "It is extremely important that the public understands that the judge goes out of his way to say that the new management which has taken over... (Opposition cry of 'Whitewash'). There are new

managers. It is the view of the court."

Mr John Prescott (Hull East, Lab) said that the report was an indictment of the sloppy practices that had gone on for many years.

Although it had been said that it was not a statutory offence to proceed to sea with the bow doors open, it was an offence to send a ship to sea in an unseaworthy condition.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) said that the court found fault lay with named officers and with the company. The country would not understand unless he admitted to the House that Townsend Thoresen was grossly negligent.

"Unless action is taken and unless the Secretary of State concedes that negligence was committed grossly by the company, and possibly by the department, then the legacy of this terrible tragedy will be that those who died paid the price of free enterprise."

Mr Channon said that had there been criticism of his department, showing negligence, he would have taken appropriate action.

Mr Gerald Berrington (St Helens South, Lab) said that

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WORLD SUMMARY

Drugs trial switch after death threats

Uppsala — The venue of the trial of Captain Simon Hayward on charges of smuggling drugs into Sweden has been switched for security reasons and will now open in Stockholm next Tuesday (Philip Jacobson writes).

Behind this decision lies the fear that Captain Hayward's life may be in danger from the international narcotics ring with which his brother, Christopher, is alleged to be closely involved.

Anonymous death threats have already been made against the British officer and against Swedish detectives and judicial officials handling his case.

This surprise development has heightened speculation here that Captain Hayward, who denies smuggling Moroccan hashish worth an estimated £500,000 into the country in his brother's car, may now be co-operating with the investigation.

The Uppsala authorities have said previously that it was too dangerous to send drugs squad detectives to pursue the case on the Spanish island of Ibiza. It is not yet clear whether Captain Hayward will be tried in specially protected surroundings in the Swedish capital.

Judge for FBI

Washington — President Reagan yesterday nominated Mr William Sessions, a federal court judge, as the new director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Mohsin Ali writes).

Mr Sessions, 57, is to succeed Mr William Webster, who recently became director of the Central Intelligence Agency. By choosing Mr Sessions, Mr Reagan has ended a lengthy search for a new FBI chief. Mr Sessions, a Republican, must be confirmed by the Senate in his new job, which is for a 10-year term.

Church to be returned

Moscow — The authorities in Lithuania, one of the three Baltic republics in the Soviet Union, have announced that they are to return to the Catholic community a church which was seized by the state in 1960 (Mary Dejevsky writes).

The Queen of Peace church in Klaipeda — the third largest city in Lithuania and an important Soviet naval base — became the focus for Roman Catholic and Lithuanian nationalist sentiment when it was taken over by the city council and converted into a concert hall.

According to the announcement, the church will be handed over within two years. Its seizure had left Klaipeda's Catholics with nowhere to worship except a small prayer house.

Daylight curfew

Delhi (Reuters) — Police imposed a daylight curfew on Delhi's walled city today to prevent Hindu-Muslim clashes after eight Muslims were killed in nearby Uttar Pradesh state.

Police said Old Delhi was tense after the Wednesday night killings in which Muslim passengers, including three women, were dragged from a bus in Wazirpur village near Meerut and beaten to death. Another man was stabbed to death.

QE2 engine trouble

Gibraltar — The QE2 luxury cruise liner sailed directly for Southampton yesterday, cancelling a stop at the Algarve's most beautiful beach resort, Praia de Rocha, after faults in its main propulsion system forced it to remain docked on Thursday night in Gibraltar (A Correspondent writes).

Engine problems have plagued the Cunard ship since its £110 million refit in West Germany this year.

Two private aircraft flew out spare parts and specialized engineers to work on the engine with staff of a local shipyard. When the vessel left in mid-afternoon, it was not clear whether repairs were complete or only a patching-up operation had been possible. The vessel had arrived from Lisbon with 3,000 passengers and crew.

Thatcher sees agreement by end of year

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday voiced confidence that a nuclear arms control agreement would be achieved by the superpowers by the end of the year (Philip Webster writes).

She was optimistic that a solution would be found for the 72 Pershing 1A shorter-range missiles in West Germany which the Soviet Union wants eliminated. The issue would not be allowed to block an agreement, she said. In a BBC Television interview, she gave a far more enthusiastic welcome to the Gorbachev "double zero" offer than she had been able to do on Thursday in the Commons, when she had not seen the full details.

She again praised Mr Gorbachev for the "historic" things he was doing in the Soviet Union. "It is very courageous and I think he should be supported in the efforts he is making. He is a very vigorous debater and so am I and so, of course, we get on together. We each respect the other's views and so, in spite of our different views, there are certain things that we recognize are in the interest both of the Russian people and the British people, and all peoples in the free world."

Mr Obukov also criticized American proposals under which US inspectors would have greater access to Soviet installations than their Russian counterparts could enjoy at Nato facilities in Western Europe. This was "a clear inequality".

A US official would only say

Delhi security gives tennis a sporting chance

From Gavin Bell
Delhi

The men with sub-machineguns in the watchtowers were tense and alert. Snipers on the rooftops scanned the huge compound as guard dogs paced nervously along the high perimeter wall. Then, suddenly, came a cry: "Anyone for tennis?"

The Davis Cup quarter-final match between India and Israel, which began in Delhi yesterday, was peculiar in several respects.

Firstly, it was a bit of a surprise to find the two teams, without a player in the top 25 world rankings between them, meeting at this advanced stage of the championship.

Sad Shultz brings US back to a sense of sanity and reality

Rarely has a senior serving official ever delivered such a devastating public indictment of the government in which he serves as did Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, this week. His picture of intrigue and deception in the White House, of guerrilla warfare and extraordinary pettiness is far worse even than critics of the Reagan Administration imagined.

It is a sad moment for America, and for a proud man like Mr Shultz. Fury and contempt broke through his flat monotone as he outlined the way the President he has known for more than 20 years was misled, misinformed and misused by his underlings, and as he described his frustration at being unable to get into the Oval Office to tell President Reagan what was going on.

And with terse, telling bluntness, he shared with the nation his humiliation at the attempt by the conspirators first to shut him out of the Administration. The low point came when a 35-year-old aide denied him an aircraft to use on official business, and the Secretary of State, the third highest officeholder in the land, was reduced to sending a so-called "yes/no" memorandum to the President seeking permission to fly.

Mr Shultz's testimony was the more powerful for its blunt directness. No lawyer whispered in his ear, there were no hesitations or convenient memory lapses. With stolid but forceful eloquence, punctuated by flashes of dry humour ("I hardly know Colonel North al-

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

though, like everybody else in America, I feel I know him well by now"), he made clear exactly what was wrong with the Iran policy from its conception and with the way its proponents viewed their job.

The need for a great world power to act with consistency, morality and above all, according to its own laws and constitution, has rarely been so forcefully articulated. No wonder Mr Shultz's 30-minute lecture on democracy, accountability and responsibility in public life was listened to in church-like silence.

It was his day. It must have been

sweet to him to hear repeated tributes to his wisdom after the long siege by zealots who chafed at the moderates in the State Department. He was somewhat uncomfortable in explaining why he allowed himself to be kept in the dark about the details of the Iran affair. But on the whole he has restored the primacy of his position and his department, scotching for the foreseeable future any more attempts by the discredited White House to take over foreign policy.

It was, however, more than just personal vindication. More important for America, his testimony brought back a sense of sanity and reality to a nation carried away by the passions and charisma of Colonel North. In a switch on previous assertions of patriotism and heroic

behaviour, Senator Warren Rudman declared: "I do not believe that heroes are people who do not take risks. Real heroes are people who speak up to their President, make their views known and are willing to take great personal risks."

This change was probably easier because of the intervening testimony of Rear-Admiral John Pundexter. The hapless former National Security Adviser made a lamentable impression. Still, defensive and unapologetic, he either refused to explain or could not recall most of his actions. Indeed, his recollection appeared so faulty that the congressional committee pointedly wondered how it matched an old US Navy fitness report praising his "photographic memory."

Tanker limps to Kuwait after mine explosion

From Robert Fisk, Dubai

With her port side number one compartment still taking water from the morning's mine explosion against her hull, the 401,382-tonne supertanker Bridgeton limped on towards Kuwait last night, her speed cut by a quarter and her American naval escort commanders ready to use rifle fire from their frigates' bows to destroy further mines.

The prime but unprovable suspects behind the undersea mine are the Iranians whose Prime Minister, Mr Mir-Hussein Mousavi, yesterday praised the "invisible hands" which had proved "how vulnerable Americans are despite their huge and unprecedented military expedition in the Persian Gulf to escort Kuwaiti tankers".

Indeed, after the self-assured statements from the US Navy on Thursday night and the growing belief that the first American-escorted convoy off the Gulf might after all reach Kuwait unscathed, even America's Arab friends in the region last night were regarding the mining of the Bridgeton as a humiliation.

The Kuwaitis, together with Saudi and US personnel, had already cleared 12 mines from the 30-mile channel up to Kuwait's offshore oil loading terminal, it had been confidently announced, but the Bridgeton was struck by her mine 120 miles from her destination, 40 miles from the scene of any other such attacks and 18 miles from the Iranian island of Farsi, a base for Revolutionary Guard units and a launching point for previous Iranian speedboat attacks on tankers.

Small Iranian vessels, apparently fishing in the international waters south-east of Kuwait, had been observed in the area at dawn, but there had been no proof that they were involved in laying explosives.

When, therefore, the Bridgeton rammed the mine just before 7am, both her own crew and those of the three American warships escorting her together with the gas carrier Gas Prince, were taken by surprise. The huge explosion — which could clearly be heard on board one of the US frigates, the Kidd, more than a mile away — almost threw the

tanker's bridge crew off their feet and had the Kidd's commander ordering nine seamen to the bows of his vessel armed with M 14 rifles to shoot at any other suspicious objects.

Lieutenant Richard Vogel, on board the Bridgeton, radioed immediately to the Kidd: "We've been hit, we've been hit!" But he was able to establish at once that none of the 26 people on board the supertanker had been hurt, although the Bridgeton immediately dropped her speed from 16 to five knots. She was later able to increase her speed to 12 knots and continue towards Kuwait, although extensive inspection of her hull and internal compartments will now mean a delay of several days before she can load oil — even supposing the damage does not necessitate her sailing to dry dock in Bahrain or Dubai for repairs.

The US Gulf convoy schedules have thus already been disrupted, and the American naval commanders now have to decide whether to escort the smaller Gas Prince back to the Gulf of Oman alone or delay her passage until the Bridgeton is ready to sail.

In the immediate aftermath of the mining — probably not by coincidence — Hojatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, chose to announce what he described as "a new policy of retaliation" whereby Iran would hit back at Iraq's Gulf allies if Iraq attacked Iran's "economic centres and installations".

Mr Rafsanjani's statement was also doubtless timed to coincide with today's meeting of Gulf Co-operation Council foreign ministers in Jeddah. Their deliberations will, in turn, focus on Iran's continuing interest in UN mediation in the Gulf war and the possible pressure that can be brought to bear on President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to halt further air attacks against Iran.

The Rafsanjani warning is therefore a powerful medicine for the Arabs at a moment when the Gulf States had been regaining confidence in America's support for them.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday described the Soviet demand that West Germany's Pershing 1A missiles be scrapped as "mischievous", adding that it was an impediment to an arms agreement.

Speaking on the BBC's Today programme, Mr Mellor said Moscow knew that the West was not prepared to include the 72 Pershing 1As in the talks because they belonged to West Germany, not the United States. "They know that what will be said throughout the West now is: 'Surely you are not going to let these 72 ageing missiles get in the way of a deal?' So they are being mischievous."

In Copenhagen, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, welcomed Mr Gorbachev's announcement on not retaining 100 medium-range missiles in Soviet Asia.



Anti-terrorist police, above, dragging the hijacker of an Air Afrique DC 10 down the airliner steps. In a fierce struggle at Geneva airport the crew overpowered the Lebanese gunman while passengers, top, escaped down an emergency ramp. Swiss commandos then stormed the plane, which had been hijacked over northern Italy. A Frenchman, singled out and shot in the head by the hijacker, is carried from the aircraft, left. He died on the way to hospital. Officials said the gunman's demands included the release of Muhammad Ali Hamadei, who is being held in West Germany in connection with the hijacking of a TWA jet in 1985.

Genscher blames Iraq for starting Gulf War

From John England, Bonn

In his boldest statement so far on the Gulf War, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, yesterday said that Iraq was responsible for starting the conflict and criticized it for using poison gas.

The said the war was a

"terrible" one and therefore it was natural that West Germany was doing everything it could to free the two old civilized nations from it. Herr Genscher's statement, made in a radio interview, came only a day after a visit to Bonn by Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian Foreign Minister, who

said that the United Nations Security Council must brand Iraq as the aggressor before Iran would co-operate on the council's resolution calling for a ceasefire.

Herr Wolfgang Schäuble, the Bonn Chancellery Minister, later told Mr Kassim

Ahmed Taki al-Uribi, the Iranian Minister for Heavy Industry, that West Germany maintained "a strictly neutral and balanced" position on the Gulf War. Bonn had good relations with both sides, he added, and wanted to contribute to an early end to the conflict.

Geneva arms talks

American demands upset Russians

From Alan McGregor
Geneva

The Soviet Union said yesterday that the United States was proposing "over-complicated" and unfair procedures for verifying the currently negotiated agreement on eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles.

Mr Alexei Obukov, the chief Russian delegate, said that while accord had virtually been reached in "all principal areas", including inspection measures, notifications and data exchange, differences remained on methods for implementation.

He said: "For example, the US side has proposed building certain constructions around some facilities, with TV cameras, complicated roadway patterns and weighbridges to ascertain the weight of some armaments and so forth."

Such arrangements would, in his view, "take years" to complete and, in effect, delay application of an agreement.

Thatcher sees agreement by end of year

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday voiced confidence that a nuclear arms control agreement would be achieved by the superpowers by the end of the year (Philip Webster writes).

She was optimistic that a solution would be found for the 72 Pershing 1A shorter-range missiles in West Germany which the Soviet Union wants eliminated. The issue would not be allowed to block an agreement, she said. In a BBC Television interview, she gave a far more enthusiastic welcome to the Gorbachev "double zero" offer than she had been able to do on Thursday in the Commons, when she had not seen the full details.

She again praised Mr Gorbachev for the "historic" things he was doing in the Soviet Union. "It is very courageous and I think he should be supported in the efforts he is making. He is a very vigorous debater and so am I and so, of course, we get on together. We each respect the other's views and so, in spite of our different views, there are certain things that we recognize are in the interest both of the Russian people and the British people, and all peoples in the free world."

Mr Obukov also criticized American proposals under which US inspectors would have greater access to Soviet installations than their Russian counterparts could enjoy at Nato facilities in Western Europe. This was "a clear inequality".

A US official would only say

would reduce the Warsaw Pact's capability to invade (John England writes).

A Defence Ministry spokesman, Colonel Horst Prayon, said yesterday that the fundamental question in Bonn's strategic considerations was not one of concern with particular weapons systems, but the maintenance of options for the security of West Germany as part of Nato.

The further existence of the Pershing 1A missiles could contribute to making the Soviet Union more flexible in reducing its invasion capability. He added: "If Moscow will reduce its threat potential, then we will have no more problems with the Pershings."

Herr Horst Ehmke, deputy chairman of the opposition Social Democratic Party's parliamentary group, said the Pershings had become the main stumbling block to a superpower agreement on Euro-missiles that could achieve a breakthrough in East-West relations.

Mellor accuses the Kremlin

By Andrew McEwen
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, yesterday described the Soviet demand that West Germany's Pershing 1A missiles be scrapped as "mischievous", adding that it was an impediment to an arms agreement.

Speaking on the BBC's Today programme, Mr Mellor said Moscow knew that the West was not prepared to include the 72 Pershing 1As in the talks because they belonged to West Germany, not the United States. "They know that what will be said throughout the West now is: 'Surely you are not going to let these 72 ageing missiles get in the way of a deal?' So they are being mischievous."

In Copenhagen, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, welcomed Mr Gorbachev's announcement on not retaining 100 medium-range missiles in Soviet Asia.

Against anybody who recognized their country for six years. None of them was exposed to a brief demonstration by Palestinian and Arab students who had been persuaded by police batons and rifle-buffs a few hours earlier to go and protest somewhere else.

As play began in the shadow of guns, one was given to reflect upon the fragility of international sport, assailed by the machinations of politicians and the insidious threat of terrorism, and upon its will to survive. To the delight of the home fans, young Ramesh Krishnan and the veteran Vijay Amritraj proceeded to dispose of their opponents in straight sets.

Results, page 46

THE TIMES THE FRENCH GAME OF BOULES

The game of Boules, otherwise known as Pétanque, is suitable for all ages, demanding skill rather than physical prowess. It is perfect for playing on the beach or in the garden and will provide many hours of entertainment for all members of the family.

To play the game, two teams are needed of one to four people. The rules are straightforward, the object of the game being to throw the boules as near as possible to the wooden jack. Points are awarded to the winning team and a game continues until one team has gained thirteen points.

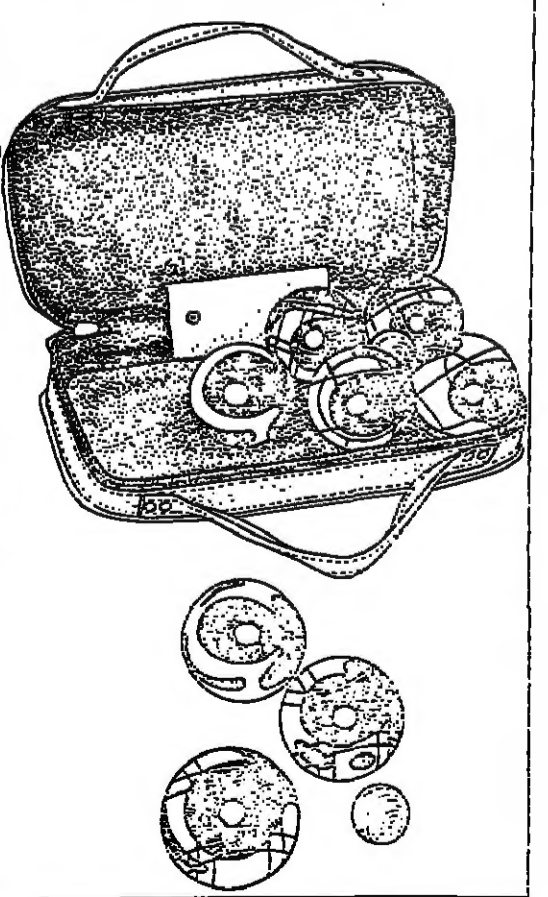
Two sets are available, both made in France: a two-player set comprising 6 boules (2 sets of 3) with 1 jack and a family set consisting of 8 boules (4 sets of 2) and 2 jacks. The boules are chrome plated and conveniently packed in a durable vinyl case complete with set of rules. Both sets are easy to carry, making them very suitable for the holidays.

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Blackshirt defendant who sought to destroy the state

From Roger Boyes
Bologna

In the jungle stickiness of the Bologna courtroom, everyone is sweating apart from Signor Stefano Delle Chiaie.

He sits behind metal bars (Italian courts favour zoo cages for dangerous defendants) gives a cheerful Hitler salute to his neo-Fascist supporters — one waves a black handkerchief — and interrupts the judge again and again with a terrier bark.

"No, no that's not right at all," he insists — and does not sweat at all.

Signor Delle Chiaie, once described as the Carlos of world Fascism, accused of one of the worst terrorist outrages since the war, is a smart sort of chap, well-shaven, hair brushed forward, elegant jacket but no tie.

Ties, of course, are forbidden by the prison authorities lest the despairing defendant hang himself in his cell. Nothing, one hazards, could be further from the mind of Signor Delle Chiaie, a man who believes in powerful protectors. He may be right.

The courtroom is a short bus-ride from Bologna station, which nowadays teems with northerners going south and with Americans on culture safaris.

On August 2 1980, a bomb tore through the building killing 85 people and wounding almost 200. It was the bloodiest such attack in Europe for decades.

Signor Delle Chiaie, tracked

down in Venezuela earlier this year and extradited to Italy, denies helping to organize the bombing.

What he does not deny — apart from those sharp corrections of detail as the judge reads out from the court papers — is an extraordinary career in the service of the Black International, a network of Fascist sympathizers who inhabit some European and South American secret services and who run drugs and arms-smuggling rackets to keep the flame alive.

It is a career crammed with action but the courtroom heat, the judge's dry cataloguing, the drum-brum of the air conditioning conspire against concentration.

Suddenly the 50-year-old accused blurts out: "I'm proud to have shaken his hand."

One's brain, temporarily absent, re-enters the room.



Signor Delle Chiaie: Has friends in high places.

Whose hand? "Klaus Barbie," says a neighbouring spectator. Of course, Klaus Barbie.

Signor Delle Chiaie's fascist career began in the 1950s when he joined the Social Movement of Italy, the heirs of Italian Fascism.

The party swears loyalty to the Constitution and so cannot be banned. It is run by those who still regard Mussolini as a genius and captures about 6 per cent of the popular vote — not insignificant in Italian politics.

Nowadays, no government coalition broker even considers consulting the MSI; they are beyond the pale, the only political party not to be invited to the Queen's birthday party at the British Embassy.

Signor Delle Chiaie found it all too tame. He joined a militant Nazi group called Ordine Nuovo (motto "Our honour is in our loyalty", an old SS slogan) and then founded his own group, the National Avanti Guard.

In 1967, Signor Delle Chiaie and colleagues travelled to the Colonels' Greece for training in guerrilla warfare.

His idea was to group mercenaries, young and old Fascists, sympathizers in the secret services and police forces and Nazis in exile into a kind of "Black International" that would be more than a welfare club for the extreme right. It would be a fighting organization.

"What we have to start with," he wrote in an open letter to his Italian comrades, "is the destruction of the state structure. And that has to look as if it is the work of communists and Maoists."

This became known as the "strategy of tension" and, to some degree, it appears to have been supported by members of the Italian secret service, at least in terms of diverting suspicion on left-wingers or anarchists (in plentiful supply in the late 1960s).

An explosion in 1969 at a bank in the Piazza Fontana in Milan killed 16 and wounded 90. The police, insisting that the bombing was a left-wing operation, rounded up anarchists, one of whom fell from a window in police

headquarters. Another was held for three years before being freed.

Later, investigators found that two neo-Fascists had conspired with an Italian secret agent to create an atmosphere of terror. But the conviction came a full 10 years after the bombing.

Similar delays are evident in the Bologna case. At least partly they can be explained by Signor Delle Chiaie's extraordinary mobility. When Italy grew too hot for him in the early 1970s, he moved to Franco's Spain. There he helped the Fascist police to root out Eia, the Basque separatist guerrillas.

In Chile he helped General Pinochet build up his secret police. At the end of 1979 — some six months before the killing of Bishop Oscar Romero — Signor Delle Chiaie visited the head of El Salvador's death squad and proposed a blueprint for eliminating left-wingers.

By this time his reputation was spreading throughout South America. It surprised nobody when he emerged in Bolivia in 1980 when the military seized power. It was there that he met Klaus Barbie and was duly impressed.

At least one secret service man, now living in Switzerland, recently told the Italian press that he did not think Signor Delle Chiaie was behind the Bologna blast because "it was not his style".

Some style. Perhaps that explains Signor Delle Chiaie's confidence in court. Or perhaps it is the feeling that he will be shielded until the end.

When Signor Delle Chiaie was brought back in handcuffs from Venezuela, he promised to name names. So far that has not happened. His strength lies in this discretion, hinting at knowledge, but not revealing it. Nobody in Italy, certainly nobody in high places, wants to be unmasked as a Fascist sympathizer. One prosecutor, Signor Guido Calvi, has challenged the secret service to present a report of its investigation into the Bologna explosion.

"But perhaps," he declares tauntingly, "these reports don't exist because Delle Chiaie was or is one of them."

Reagan meets young Aids victim



President Reagan cradling a baby suffering from Aids during his visit to a Maryland hospital shortly after appointing a commission to investigate ways of combating the disease.

President promises action

From Charles Bremner, New York

President Reagan, who has been widely criticized for lack of attention to the Aids crisis, has named a national panel to assess the epidemic — but the inclusion of a prominent homosexual doctor and the Roman Catholic Cardinal Archbishop of New York have provoked anger from right-wing politicians and homosexual groups.

To underline his new commitment to combating the disease, the President paid a highly publicized visit to a Maryland hospital ward

shortly after announcing the creation of the commission. At the hospital he met four children with the disease. He held a 14-month-old black baby in his arms and banded out jars of jellybeans. "Let me just make a promise to those children and all others who have contracted this disease... We'll not rest till we've sent Aids the way of smallpox and polio," he said.

The 12-member commission, charged with developing a "full-fledged strategy for battling Aids", is chaired by

Dr William Mayberry, head of the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. Its two most controversial members are Cardinal John O'Connor, the Archbishop of New York, and Dr Frank Lilly, a homosexual activist who is chairman of the department of genetics at the Albert Einstein College in New York's Bronx.

"The cardinal is a symbol for many gay people of hatred towards gay people," Mr Tom Stoddard, director of the Lambda Aids Fund in New York, said.

Russians meet in space station

From Mary Dejevsky
Moscow

The Soviet Soyuz TM 3 spacecraft with the first Syrian cosmonaut on board docked successfully with the orbiting space station Mir early yesterday.

Live pictures of Lieutenant-Colonel Muhammad Faris and his two Soviet colleagues, Commander Alexander Viktorov and Flight Engineer Alexander Alexandrov, were transmitted on Soviet television, but the actual docking was not shown.

Colonel Faris was seen smiling broadly as he was welcomed on board Mir by the two cosmonauts Alexander Laveikin and Yuri Romanenko who have been manning the station since February.

At a press conference in Moscow later, it was disclosed that Laveikin would be returning to Earth with the Soyuz crew next Wednesday. Alexandrov will replace him.

The deputy controller of the mission, Mr Viktor Blagov, said some irregularities had been observed in Laveikin's heartbeat.

Although Mr Blagov said that it was planned to provide regular replacements for crew staffing Mir — which is intended to be a permanently manned — Laveikin's return was not announced in advance and appears to have been a last minute decision.

According to Mr Blagov, a new and more accurate method of docking was used this time which obviated the need for the space station to be manoeuvred into position.

● PEKING: The scientific experiments of two Chinese students, Mr Wang Nianqing and Mr Tian Chunliang, both aged 17, will travel by container into outer space on board the 1988 American Space Shuttle, according to New China News Agency (AFP reports). The experiments — collecting space dust and solidifying liquid mixtures — were selected from 7,000 proposals. The students are the first to participate in a programme organized by the Chinese Society of Astronautics and the American Association for the Promotion of Science in China.

Boost for peasant plots

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet authorities are to consider increasing the number of livestock and acreage of land peasants are allowed to hold privately in an attempt to increase supplies of meat, fruit and vegetables. Up to one-third of all fruit and vegetables produced in the Soviet Union is believed to come from these so-called private plots, even though they constitute only a minute proportion of the total area of farmland.

The decision, which was announced after Thursday's regular meeting of the party

Politburo, came less than a day after the publication of a Central Committee resolution highlighting the inadequacy of fruit and vegetable supplies to Russia's main cities, Moscow and Leningrad. The resolution noted that in many cases supplies were worse than last year and the selection smaller.

A week ago a Moscow newspaper revealed that one-third of the potatoes in state stores had rotted and additional supplies were being bought direct from farms outside Moscow.

This became known as the "strategy of tension" and, to some degree, it appears to have been supported by members of the Italian secret service, at least in terms of diverting suspicion on left-wingers or anarchists (in plentiful supply in the late 1960s).

An explosion in 1969 at a bank in the Piazza Fontana in Milan killed 16 and wounded 90. The police, insisting that the bombing was a left-wing operation, rounded up anarchists, one of whom fell from a window in police

Beatles file compact disc claim

From Charles Bremner
New York

Ringo Starr, George Harrison and Yoko Ono, widow of John Lennon, have filed a \$40 million (£25 million) law suit in New York against the Beatles' former record company, claiming that it had tried to punish them for a drawn-out legal battle by delaying the release of their recordings on compact disc.

In their action, filed in the Manhattan Supreme Court, the two former Beatles, Yoko Ono and their defunct company, Apple, allege that Capitol Records and its British parent company, EMI, held up the compact disc release in the United States for two years to try to force them to drop a long-standing claim over royalties.

They are also demanding the return of the master tapes of their 1960s albums. Paul McCartney, the fourth Beatle, has not joined in the suit, although it includes him as a claimant.

The compact disc versions of Beatles' hits went to the top of the record charts when they were first released in the US in February, three years after Capitol had begun releasing compact disc versions of other artists' 1960s hits.

Mr Marks has been waging a battle for eight years to win about \$50 million in damages from Capitol for what the claimants say was an attempt to camouflage the sale of 19 million copies of *Abbey Road* and other record albums by claiming they were scrapped, so denying them royalties.

As well as alleging delay in releasing the compact discs, the claimants say Capitol deprived them of royalties by charging 25 per cent of the price of the discs for "packaging" when the true cost was one sixth of that.

Colombo offers an amnesty for guerrillas who disarm

By Our Foreign Staff

A senior Sri Lankan government minister yesterday held out an olive branch to Tamil guerrillas who have opposed the terms of the proposed settlement to end the four-year conflict.

Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, the National Security Minister, said that guerrilla groups would be covered by an all-embracing amnesty.

Asked whether Mr Vellupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the largest Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, would be allowed to return to take up normal civilian life, he said: "Yes, why not? We would love him to join the mainstream of politics. Anything he does for the ballot will be allowed."

The amnesty would take effect as soon as the groups handed over weapons to a civilian authority to be designated by the Government, possibly with Indian observers. He emphasized that the agreement would be between the Sri Lankan and Indian governments. The guerrillas would not be signatories.

He said that all groups except the Liberation Tigers

had welcomed the proposed deal, which involves merging the island's Eastern and Northern provinces, creating a semi-autonomous region peopled by Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims.

"The people of Jaffna welcome it. The people of the Eastern Province are prepared to accept it. But the signals I get from the LTTE are quite contrary. There are some groups in the LTTE which are saying 'Eelam or nothing', he said. The group has demanded the creation of a separate Tamil state.

Asked how the Government planned to persuade the Sinhalese, who make up a third of the population of the Eastern Province, to accept a merger with the north, he said: "I think we will have to appeal to reason rather than emotion. Those who oppose it must come up with an alternative. We must realize that there is no military solution."

He said the agreement could be settled almost immediately. "I am not talking of months and weeks. I am talking of days, if not hours."

"Let me tell you that once

the momentum starts going, and it has begun, the whole thing could be wrapped up very quickly. Possibly much faster than you or anyone at this moment thinks."

While some commentators have said that the draft agreement would effectively treat the two merged states as a Tamil homeland, the minister said it carefully avoided using that word. "I think it is a proper, honorable compromise, which accepts facts as they are. It doesn't go into words which cause other consequences," he said.

But he added that it recognized that the Tamils had a distinct identity.

The agreement envisages a referendum being held in the Eastern Province by the end of next year. There has been comment that the referendum might result in the Eastern Province's voters undermining a successful solution. The Minister said: "It (the referendum) is part of the solution."

A further fear has been that the Tamils might renege if the referendum went against their wishes.

Tamils predict an early peace deal

From Gavin Bell, Delhi

Tamil leaders have reinforced hopes of a settlement of the four-year-old civil war in Sri Lanka by predicting that two peace agreements may be signed in Colombo next week.

Officials of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the main guerrilla group on the island, said the draft autonomy and co-operation agreements would be finalized shortly in Delhi, before being signed in the Sri Lankan capital.

Mr Vellupillai Prabhakaran, the organization's chief commander, flew to Delhi last

night to discuss the accords with Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister.

President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka said earlier that he hoped to finalize a solution within two weeks, and Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, the National Security Minister, said peace was "knocking at the door".

The apparent breakthrough follows a flurry of diplomatic activity between emissaries of the Indian and Sri Lankan governments and representatives of the minority Tamil

community which has been campaigning for a separate state in the north of the island. More than 5,000 people have been killed and almost 150,000 Tamils have sought refuge in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu since the violence began in earnest almost exactly four years ago.

Informed sources say the main agreement provides for a linking of the Northern and Eastern provinces under a single autonomous council, and recognition of the Tamils as a distinct nationality with equal rights.

Directors fight to keep their films unaltered

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Many of the world's leading film-makers are among more than 500 signatories to a manifesto issued at the end of Barcelona's new film festival emphasizing a "moral right" that their creations reach the public as they were conceived.

Fred Zinnemann, who attended the festival, described the "Barcelona Manifesto" as of great importance "for the battle which now begins".

The colouring of film classics originally made in black and white, the alterations due to dubbing, and the cutting and mutilation of film sequences or scripts are among the problems which the film directors who signed most want overcome. They also are against practices such as interrupting their films with advertising when shown on television.

Among the famous directors who signed along with Mr Zinnemann, are Woody Allen,

Bernardo Bertolucci, Robert Bresson, Costa Gavras, Federico Fellini, Akira Kurosawa, Claude Lelouch, Sidney Lumet, Louis Malle, Paul Newman, Brian de Palma, Roman Polanski, Karel Reisz, Alain Resnais, Ettore Scola, Martin Scorsese, and Bertrand Tavernier.

The declaration emphasizes the need to protect the authors' rights against manipulation for commercial reasons. European directors at a symposium during the festival said film-

makers' rights were totally unprotected.

On Thursday the "Europa Prize" of this first Barcelona festival, a new venture based on the former Barcelona Film Week, went to Marion Hansel, a 38-year-old Belgian woman director, for *Les Noces Barbare*, based on the 1985 Goncourt Prize novel of the same name. It is worth about £150,000. The British entry, *Closed Circuit*, by Nicholas Granby, won the best short film prize.

HOW THEY WALKED OFF WITH HARRODS

Ivan Fallon's in-depth account of the battle for Harrods starts tomorrow

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Massacre at Homoine

Survivors relive horror of the brutal attack on Mozambique town

From Michael Hornsby, Inhambane, Mozambique

"They kicked down the door of my hut, came in and started shooting. Three women who had taken shelter with me were all killed. One of them had a baby on her back. The baby was killed as well. The attackers went from house to house shooting."

The speaker, Mr Ringi Taimu, an old man with grizzled white hair, was one of the survivors of what Mozambique authorities say was a massacre of at least 386 civilians a week ago at the small town of Homoine, 18 miles west of here by road and ferry.

Mr Taimu, his right leg shattered by a bullet, was one of 49 seriously injured men, women and children brought to the provincial hospital in Inhambane from Homoine over the past week, according to Mr Marcos Macauza, a male nurse who was on duty late on July 18 when the first casualties started to arrive.

I also saw an 11-year-old girl in a coma with a bullet wound in the back of her head and an eight-year-old girl with an open skull wound apparently inflicted by a knife, possibly a bayonet. Mr Macauza said that most of those who had been shot had been hit in the back, presumably while fleeing from their assailants.

The Mozambicans claim the killings and shootings were the work of "armed bandits" of Renamo, the Mozambique National Resistance, an insurgent movement allegedly armed and assisted by the South Africans.

After visiting Homoine on Thursday, Mr Mario Machungo, the Prime Minister of Mozambique, told foreign reporters that his Government had information that Renamo "have just been supplied by the South Africans in this province. They have got more weapons and materials."

According to *Noticias*, Maputo's main daily newspaper — which on Thursday published gruesome pictures of what it said were massacre victims — parachute drops of weapons to the insurgents in Inhambane province were made by South Africa two months ago.

These claims have provoked vigorous denials from the South African Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, which issued a statement taking "strong exception to this deliberate attempt by the Mozambique Government to destroy relations between South Africa and Mozambique."

Under a non-aggression pact signed in March 1984, Pretoria and Maputo undertook not to give military aid to guerrillas fighting to overthrow their governments.

A common thread of the accounts of some 10 survivors of the massacre, interviewed by myself and other foreign reporters, was that several

ing at a small guest house in the town when he heard gunfire at about 5.45am. He looked out of the window and saw tracer bullets lighting up the sky over the town.

"I saw 40 or 50 armed troops coming down the street. At first I thought they were probably soldiers from Homoine because they had uniforms and were very well equipped. But they were shooting every person and building in sight." The attackers, he said, "had very new clothes, camouflage uniforms, including boots, and I don't know what kind of guns, but they looked new. They came in one group with a bearded man in front leading, and directing his people down different streets."

As the fighting became fiercer, Mr van Koeveering took shelter with others in a room in the back yard of the guest house. They did not venture out until about 3pm "after it had been quiet for about half an hour". They found six or seven women who had all been shot dead, lying in a group.

Mr van Koeveering said he had no doubt the killers were Renamo insurgents. "I think it is important, especially for Americans, to realize that this is not a civil war. These people are not fighting for any ideal. They're fighting to create terror."

The massacre occurred at a time of intense debate in Washington over whether to lend support to Renamo. Republican senators have held up the appointment of Miss Melissa Wells as America's next Ambassador to Mozambique for more than eight months because of her criticism of the insurgents.

Whether the Homoine massacre was on the scale claimed is at least open to question. No foreign newsmen have yet been able to visit the site of the massacre because Mozambique has been unable to provide military escorts. There is so far only the word of Government officials for the number of dead, who have now been buried in the cemetery at Homoine, some of them in a mass grave. But there can be little doubt that a massacre took place.



Another head for a royal household

From Alan Hamilton
Head-Smashed-In
Buffalo Jump, Alberta

Future generations of servants charged with the housework of the royal apartments may well come to curse the first wedding anniversary of the Duke and Duchess of York every time they have to dust the buffalo.

The three-foot-high stuffed head of a monstrously ugly and wildly hairy beast was presented to the royal couple on Thursday when the Duke officially opened a museum at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump in southern Alberta, a leading historical location designated by Unesco as a world heritage site.

Weighing 60 lbs, the stuffed head was the only mummified remains of a 12-year-old bull buffalo which weighed half a ton on the hoof and which was ritually slaughtered two years ago by Peigan Indians on a nearby reserve.

When it was presented by Chief Peter Yellowhorn, the Duchess was instantly captivated, saying she would call it "Andrew" and hang it behind the door.

She did not say which door, and Andrew could indeed present a problem. His natural home would be the country air of Balmoral, but he would outshine all the stags' heads; he is far too big for Chideock, the couple's rented home in Dorset, and besides they are hardly ever there. His resting place may well be the gloomy bowels of Buckingham Palace, the capacious repository of the curious spoils from five generations of royal tours.

When Europeans first arrived in the New World there were an estimated 60 million buffalo roaming the plains of North America, and it was believed that the herds were so vast that no amount of hunting would ever eradicate them. Thanks to the white man's introduction of horse and rifle, they have been pursued almost to extinction.

Before the native Indians even had the bow and arrow, they killed buffalo for meat by driving herds over steep cliffs. The site visited by the Duke and Duchess is believed to have been used for the purpose since before Stonehenge or the Pyramids were built. It takes its name from a 19th-century incident when a young brave, curious to see how the buffalo fell, waited at the bottom of the cliff but was in the wrong place when the first of the herd plunged on top of him from the ridge 100 ft above.

The royal couple — accompanied by Mr William Biggall, a professional guide and Peigan Indian in full feathered

rig — toured the museum, built like a nuclear bunker into the hillside and covered with grass to preserve the uninterrupted skyline of the endless plains and the hazy view of the Rockies 50 miles to the west.

The Duchess showed interest when told that pemican was still made from buffalo meat and was enjoyed by older members of the tribe, while the Duke showed astonishment when told that a whole herd of several hundred animals could be persuaded over the cliff by only two braves funneling them into a narrow channel with the scents of buffalo and coyote skins.

Outside the museum a crowd of several thousand cheered the Duke and Duchess and shouted "Happy Anniversary", probably unaware that the Duchess was sporting the going-away dress she wore after her wedding last year. There was disappointment, however, that the royal couple, who were running behind schedule, did not tour an Indian tepee village that had been set up in an adjoining field.

Earlier in the day, the Duchess caused a mild sensation by arriving at the Medicine Hat rodeo dressed in a bright green Buffalo Bill suede jacket and matching green boots, her hair plaited and ribboned in the style of an Indian squaw. The Duke, seemingly less keen to enter into the spirit of the day, stuck to his Savile Row, dark grey, double-breasted suit, which looked spectacularly out of place among a crowd where the dress code definitely lays down clean jeans with nice-edged creases, lumberjack shirts and stetsons.

Before entering the arena, the Duke was persuaded to change into a restrained western jacket with leather patches but no frills, and the pair were presented with a stetson each, which they wore as they stood on a dais in the middle of the dirt arena to declare the rodeo open. The Duchess seemed every bit at home, as though she were in the King's Road on a Saturday afternoon, but the

Duke looked as though he felt faintly silly.

Throughout the wild horse races and bucking bronco contests, the couple showed little obvious enthusiasm for the event, as though afraid that animal rights lobbyists, already alerted to the fact that they had been given gifts of fur coats in Alberta, were ready to pounce again on the question of cruelty to horses.

Animal liberationists would have had a field day in the fairground behind the main rodeo stadium, which the royal couple did not see. Beyond the Mormon Church stall selling hamburgers and root beer, and the pig-racing track, the main attraction was a bank of slot machines containing live animals. Inserting a coin flashed a light which made a hen play naughts and crosses, a duck strum a guitar, and a rabbit fire a toy cannon, all by Pavlovian reaction, with a reward of food each time.

Out in Andrew the buffalo's part of the world, it sure is still red-neck country.



The Duke and Duchess of York displaying their stetsons at Medicine Hat yesterday.

The casual soldier wins battle of berets

Tel Aviv (Reuters) — The Israeli Army has admitted defeat in an eight-year battle to force its soldiers, known for their casual appearance, to smarten up by wearing berets.

The Army said that from Sunday soldiers would be allowed to carry the berets folded beneath their left epaulettes, except during parades, official interviews and public events.

Nuclear test

Moscow (Reuters) — The Soviet Union conducted an underground nuclear explosion in Siberia, Tass said.

Rampant pigs

Peking (Reuters) — Wild pigs are running rampant in the paddy fields of southern Jiangxi province because the South China tigers that used to eat them are being killed off by illegal hunting.

Rhine suits

The Hague (Reuters) — The Netherlands Government and private firms are demanding \$1.5 million damages from the Swiss chemical company Sandoz after last year's Rhine pollution disaster.

Tests halted

Washington (AFP) — Testing of an advanced medium-range air-to-air missile has been suspended after it failed seven times in 30 test firings, the Defence Department said.

Killer dies

Angola, Louisiana (AP) — Willie Watson, aged 30, has been executed in the electric chair for the rape and murder of a medical student.

Flying on

The Hague (Reuters) — Nato's first woman combat pilot, Ms Nelly Speerstra of The Netherlands, can continue training on fighter bombers despite earlier problems with the course, the Defence Ministry said.

Peace talks

Tegucigalpa (Reuters) — Honduras plans to host a meeting of foreign ministers next week to discuss a new peace plan for Central America.

Heat toll

Athens (Reuters) — More than 100 people have now died in a mid-summer heatwave in Greece in the past five days, hospital sources said.

Costa Rica police get new image

From Martha Honey
San José

President Arias of Costa Rica has announced reforms to demilitarize the country's security and police forces, including doing away with military ranks and terminology, new "peace" uniforms, creation of an integrated security council under the authority of the presidency and improved training to instill the concept of the police as a peacekeeping force.

In a national television address on Thursday night, President Arias also declared that December 1 will be a national holiday to celebrate the abolition of Costa Rica's armed forces. The Army was abolished in 1948 and the creation of a new one is prohibited in the Constitution.

But in recent years the 10,000-man police and security forces have increasingly resembled an army. The US resumed military aid in Costa Rica in 1981. This has included training by US special forces, military-style uniforms, modern communication systems and upgrading of the national arsenal.

President Arias said it was necessary to redevelop "the concept of a non-military Costa Rican police force". Several countries, including Britain, Japan, Holland, Spain and the US, would be approached to help in improved training for the police force.



Banzai cheers hail Mrs Hulda Crooks, a 91-year-old American grandmother, as fellow climbers congratulate her after she reached the peak of the 12,500 ft Mount Fuji yesterday morning.

She is the oldest woman to conquer the highest mountain in Japan (AFP reports from Oyama). Mrs Crooks, from Loma Linda, California, reached the flat-topped summit at 4.40am, in time to see the sunrise.

Afterwards she seemed very excited and said: "I shall challenge again." She won the title "Grandma Whitney" after becoming the oldest person to climb Mount Whitney, 14,495ft, the highest mountain in the contiguous United States. Mrs Crooks took two days to make the climb accompanied by a doctor friend, a fellow climber, Mr Bill Andres, and 10 others. Until this week the oldest woman to make the climb was aged 90. The oldest man to complete the climb was 99.

Kremlin warns Israelis

From Ian Murray
Jerusalem

The Soviet Union has given Israel a strongly worded warning against continued development of a top-secret missile, which American sources say can carry a nuclear warhead from here to the Black Sea.

The caution, on Radio Moscow's Hebrew service, said the Jericho II missile posed a direct threat to the Soviet Union and would interfere with the superpower arms negotiations in Geneva.

There was, however, no official Israeli reaction yesterday to the broadcast. A government spokesman said: "We have nothing to say because it is ridiculous to assume that Israel has the power or intention to threaten the Soviet Union with missiles or anything else."

As far as any nuclear capacity is concerned, the official used what has become Israel's traditional form of words on the subject. "We would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East," he said.

This week the Geneva-based *International Defence Review* quoted United States sources as saying that Israel had successfully fired a Jericho II missile more than 500 miles into the Mediterranean in May. This was twice the distance of previous tests, the sources said, and its maximum range is projected to be as much as 900 miles.

Fierce fighting in Burmese rebel area

From Neil Kelly
Bangkok

The Burmese Army and Karen rebels have been engaged in fierce fighting in several districts west of the Thai border. Exact casualty figures are not known but are reported to be considerable on both sides.

In some places the Karens, caught off guard by the government forces, suffered badly, elsewhere they are said to have "mauled" three Burmese battalions after surrounding them.

Military analysts say that Rangoon fears the Karens are preparing hit-and-run guerrilla attacks on Moulmein, the most important city in the area.

The main centre of military activity has been the district of Thaton, north of Moulmein, where according to Western relief workers and medical teams, Burmese soldiers have been committing the worst atrocities of their long conflict with the Karen rebels.

They described the incidents as "more brutal and mindless than those in the past". They said that at least 30 civilians, some of them women and children, had been murdered without apparent reason.

Four villages were burned down, and all food stored in the district was taken away or destroyed by the Burmese soldiers, leaving the local people nothing to eat.

Many more could have died. Some of those who did were tortured before being shot or beaten to death.

There are also claims that captured Karen guerrillas were killed when the Burmese found it would be too difficult to take them away as prisoners.

The voluntary workers from Western churches and medical groups, who deliver humanitarian aid to Karen refugees inside Thailand, say they are sending details of the atrocities to Amnesty International.

They say that past claims by refugees of Burmese mistreatment have generally been confirmed.

Karen leaders say that the Burmese troops are so badly paid and fed that in compensation they are permitted to rob, loot and rape at will.

Military analysts on the border and in Bangkok say the Burmese Army is more active this wet season than in previous years.



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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Many fell swoops

I firmly believe that the expression "golfing nutcase" is a tautology, but even among golfers it seems there are degrees of insanity. Tony Kent and Iain Williamson are a case in point. They are planning a golf match, of one hole only. But it will be of 7,200 yards. They will tee off from the summit of Fairfield in the Lake District, at 2,863ft above sea level, and finish in a hole set in the grounds of the Bishop of Carlisle's house at Rydal Park. The course passes through the summit of Great Rigg Man, Heron Pike and Nab Scar, and includes 300 ft of ascent as well as 3,000 ft of descent. Kent and Williamson will be escorted by a team of 40 to keep the score, clear the course and find the balls. They are allowed only one club, a six-iron, and may not do practise rounds beforehand. It's all in aid of Langdale and Ambleside Mountain Rescue who, I suspect, might be called out to save two totally demented golfers.

Last drive

Let us not think, by the way, that conventional golf is a gentle game that could do us a power of good. In America, around 16,000 people are injured on the golf course every year. In one weekend in Britain, nine people collapsed on golf courses — four of them fatally. And at one course near Dundee, three people have collapsed and died — all at the eighth hole.

© The King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot today is, I think, just about the most interesting race of the season, and my racing snout has come up with an interesting each-way tip: the German horse Acenango, 18-1 as I write.

No rest

You would expect a bunch of top snooker players to play 10-over cricket matches solely for laughs, but not a bit of it. When Steve Davis led a side in a Cathay Pacific promotion last week he played with the competitive determination you associate with the man in full flow around the snooker table. The moral: to a sportsman, no game is ever a trivial pursuit. Winning is always worthwhile. Davis's men triumphed in the four-sided tournament, beating Jimmy White's team in the final.

Running order

Which sport has most people dying to take it up? The Sports Council has been running a television campaign, and here is the top ten of Britain's most wanted sports, the figures being the number of follow-up queries: 1, football, 16,857; 2, swimming, 15,023; 3, martial arts, 6,650; 4, tennis, 6,492; 5, badminton, 5,892; 6, cricket, 5,443; 7, athletics, 5,024; 8, squash, 3,158; 9, running, 2,941; 10, judo, 2,910. The overlap between some categories represents the callers' own vagueness.

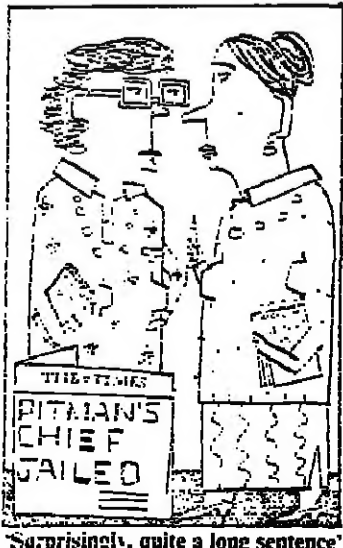
Rearguard

I hear of a more than peculiar batting achievement as my search for astounding cricketing feats continues. Bob Tillard writes to tell me that when playing for the Royal Greenjackets Depot against a touring side from Wales, he was involved in a first wicket stand of 103 — of which his own share was 100. "The other opener, Sergeant Johns, was a good defender, but without scoring shots," Tillard recalls. Incidentally, last week's remarkable match, which featured a stumping off a wide, prompted some letters asking if you really can be out in this way. Well, from a wide you can be out stumped, hit wicket, run out, handled the ball and for obstructing the field: Law 25.7. As a wicketkeeper myself, a stumping off a wide represents a lifetime's ambition.

Royal court

Tennis has been cramping the Royal Shakespeare Company's style, and the local tennis club therefore finds that it has made a match with such a wrangler that all the courts will be disturbed. The RSC has turned the tennis balls to gunstones, in short, and has given the Stratford Tennis Club notice to quit its premises, which are to be turned into a car park. The club, which has 105 full members and 150 juniors, has acquired a new site across the river but must raise £100,000 to pay for it. The exchanges with the RSC have in fact been amicable and the theatre has paid £500 group membership for actors and staff.

BARRY FANTONI



Iain Macleod used to say that every time he asked the Labour government to choose its weapons it picked boomerangs. The same could be said of the present administration's handling of the Peter Wright affair.

Two questions now need to be asked. How damaging is *Spycatcher* and can the government's actions be justified in attempting to suppress it?

It is easy to dismiss the book for it is full of errors of fact and interpretation: it is badly structured, full of grammatical errors and poorly indexed. It is also apparent that Wright's collaborator, Paul Greengrass, has had to interpret Wright's material.

Wright tells us at some length of Khrushchev's vanity and how he paraded his hair — but Khrushchev was bald. He says that Alister Watson, a suspected Soviet agent, failed to gain a fellowship, though a simple check would have revealed that Watson was a fellow of King's College, Cambridge, between 1933 and 1939. He also describes the M15 agent in the 1938 Woolwich arsenal case as Joan Gray, when the standard books on the subject all call her Olga Gray.

Such errors do not inspire confidence in a book which purports to tell us the truth about the workings of M15 and which relies on detail as the means by which this will be achieved. Much of *Spycatcher*'s contents are certainly in the public domain as Mr Justice Powell pointed out in his summing up in Australia last year; indeed many of the stories have already been revealed in Chapman Pincher's books, particularly *Their Trade is Treachery*, for

How to avoid another Wright fiasco

by Andrew Lownie

which Wright was a major source.

What is important however, is that never before have the "trade craft" — the way operations were organized — and "housekeeping" — detailed operational procedure — for various operations, especially the Berlin Tunnel operation, been given in such detail. Intelligence officers are named often quite gratuitously (Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, is supposed to have been Wright's M15 training officer).

A number of intelligence officers claim that certain information, for example on signals intelligence methodology, is still sensitive. They say the Russians could find it invaluable for damage assessment and that it might, by betraying operational methodology, still place future operations at risk.

While the British newspapers have dwelt at some length on Wright's allegations about M15's attempts to "destabilize" the Wilson government, the subject is dealt with in very few pages. Far more important and embarrassing

are the revelations that M15 bugged various embassies and conferences and that at one point there was talk of assassinating President Nasser of Egypt. Indeed a startling point to emerge is that M15 was reading the Egyptian cypher in the London embassy throughout the Suez crisis and knew that the Russians knew they were. Wright concludes the Russians wanted the British to read the signals of their resolve in the crisis correctly.

Likewise, while much attention in the press has been devoted to the question of whether or not Sir Roger Hollis was a Soviet agent, few commentators have noticed the far more important revelations made about Charles "Dickie" Ellis, an M16 officer who admitted passing information to the Germans during the Second World War and who is generally assumed to have worked also for the Russians.

It is not just the disclosures that have been made in the Peter Wright affair that have been of interest but also the manner in

which they have unfolded. In particular a very effective, orchestrated campaign has been run by some journalists and Labour MPs to keep the book in the news. While ostensibly raising questions about the accountability of the intelligence services, they have revealed information that is not, and never was in Wright's book. It is perhaps no coincidence they have also succeeded in embarrassing the government.

Clearly a more consistent and effective system is needed to deal with the growing numbers of former intelligence officers who intend to supplement their pensions by writing their "candid autobiographies". It seems unlikely however that the government will adopt the American system of a publications review board, which requires officers to submit their manuscript for vetting.

The system seems to have worked well in the United States, enabling scores of former CIA officers to write accounts of their careers without endangering national security. If such a procedure had been adopted even informally with *Spycatcher* the government might well have avoided the embarrassment of some of its disclosures and prevented Wright from going for bust.

Having taken its stand it would be unfortunate if the government did not now introduce the reforms that many argue are in both the interests of the intelligence services and the country as a whole.

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The author is London representative of the National Intelligence Centre attached to Georgetown University, Washington.

Robert Kilroy-Silk

Getting off the picket fence

It is time that a leading member of the labour movement had the courage to lay down the law on picketing in industrial disputes. Picketing has assumed a character and a mystique that is not sanctioned by trade union history, tradition or philosophy. In fact, the current practice of mass and secondary picketing is alien to the whole voluntary ethos of British trade unionism.

British unions have never endorsed violence. Confident in the strength and justice of their case they have been happy to rely on peaceful argument and persuasion. Mass picketing of the kind seen in recent years is intended instead to be intimidatory. Of course, it is. Anyone who effects to suggest otherwise is either stupid or lying, or both. The massive numbers that are deployed have no purpose other than physically to prevent the legal and peaceful passage of people and goods.

The TUC agrees with this assessment. But even the six pickets it suggests as the maximum are more than is necessary. As George Howell, the trade unions' friend and parliamentary advocate, pointed out in 1890: "The object of picketing is undoubtedly to dissuade non-union workmen from taking the place of those on strike," but it was done "not by coercion, but by intimidation, but by argument." And, in words that foretold the formation of the Union of Democratic

Miners, he pointed out that terrorism or threats are the last thing thought of, as they would be utterly futile and would absolutely fail in their object. Resistance to the dictatorship of the unions, instead of compliance with the request of the union men, would be the result, if such a course were pursued, and the future chance of such men joining the union, which is always an object of the unionists, would be frustrated, and often rendered well nigh impossible.

In *Industrial Democracy* the Webbs claimed an end to all violence and intimidation connected with trade unionism. More than this, "The most powerful unions of the present day," they boasted, "the most exacting in their demands on the employers, have gone a stage further, and have laid aside the whole system of picketing, with its intangible annoyance and early transition into breaches of public order." As they pointed out, "practically no 'pickets' were posted or needed" in the great five-month strike of the cotton spinners in 1893 and the "significant stoppage" of the Miners Federation in 1894.

A trade union official writing in the *Cotton Factory Times* on October 8, 1896, gave the reasons: "It is not worth the risk, trouble,

or expense... Every wage earner is able to read and write, and discern the difference between right and wrong; and with the assistance of the public press a full knowledge can be gained as to the reasons why a strike takes place. Hence no one is required to hang about a workshop where a strike is going on for the supposed purpose of giving information to persons who may desire to apply for work on the employers' conditions.

If that was true then, and it was, then it is even more so today. Those continuing to work do so in the full knowledge and defiance of the industrial action. It is their choice and their right, however much one may disapprove of and condemn their action. That they join the strike when subjected to mass or flying pickets is a sign of their fear, not their conversion. As we saw during the miners' dispute, men might be "picketed out" of work by physical intimidation but they tend to express a different view when allowed a secret vote.

That's why, of course, the likes of Scargill and the revolutionary ragbats that feed on every dispute encourage and defend mass picketing. It's an easier way of getting people to do what you want them to do without having to argue a case and persuade them of its validity. Men can be intimidated and manipulated into doing what they would not otherwise do. The Webbs were right: "Picketing, in fact, is a mark, not of trade unionism, but of its imperfection."

Is there no one in the movement now with the intellectual strength and the political courage to say this? Can't they even point out, as the Webbs did, that intimidation is a sign of weakness, not strength, an indication of the poverty of the pickets' case, and that, as Howell said, it not only smears all trade unionists but it rarely succeeds — not at Grunwick, or Warrington or Wapping or in the miners' strike. And, while they are at it, perhaps they could dispose of the absurd notion that is gaining the status of a myth: that it is morally wrong for a trade unionist to cross any picket line, anywhere, even when he is not involved in the dispute. That is absurd, and always has been.

A picket is "posted" to persuade others not to take his job, no more. Those who built and sustained the greatest trade union movement in the world knew this. They abided by the dictates of decency and common sense. They didn't need Tory legislation to bring them into line and tell them what to do. It is to the great shame of the present generation of trade union leaders that they have brought restrictive laws upon all our heads.

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The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Peter Brimelow

Rumbling below the Rockies

Vancouver Western Canada, from the Great Lakes to the Pacific, is vast and dramatic. At least two of its cities are spectacular enough to stun the most hardened world traveller. Vancouver is built on a fjord, so that even in its bustling centre you can look up to pine-clad, snow-capped peaks across the water at the end of every street. Calgary rises suddenly out of the prairies that stretch dead flat for a thousand miles. Behind it, like a great wall from horizon to horizon, stand the Rocky Mountains.

The natives here are restless, as usual. In the past, their discontent has taken the form of the repeated third-party (and even fourth) insurrections that have characterized Canada's political history. Now, more ominously, fringe parties explicitly advocating Western Canada's separation from the rest of the country have established a distinct electoral presence. And a number of disillusioned Western Canadian moderates are organizing the Reform Party, which is openly modelling its strategy on that of the Victorian Irish Nationalist Party.

Western Canada's problems are typical of a discrete regional community — subsumed within a larger polity. Two hundred years ago the Americans invented "federalism" specifically to deal with this issue. But the principle involved never made much impression in the British world, although sorely needed in Canada and arguably in the mother country too.

Canada, of course, is nominally a "confederation". Its component provinces have local powers that in some ways exceed those of the American states. But Canada's regions lack the power over the central government that America's regions wield through the institution of the US Senate, to which each state elects two senators regardless of its population. Canada's Senate is appointive, and has become moribund.

On a national level Canada, like Britain, is a unitary state. The votes of its population centres outweigh those of the peripheral communities. In a country of Canada's size and diversity, the peripheral communities are easily identifiable. So are the centrally imposed policies that abuse them — for example, tariffs that deny them cheap imported goods and protect the high-cost manufacturers in the cities.

In Britain the concern was not to protect outvoted regions so much as outvoted classes. No

obvious solution has been offered since the neutralization of the House of Lords. Ironically, this protracted argument still reverberates in Canada: the Canadian left has long called for the outright abolition of the Senate, apparently influenced by immigrant British socialists who fail to understand an upper chamber's federal function and equate it with aristocracy.

It is interesting to speculate whether a federal structure would have better suited the separate nations — five, counting the Ulster Protestants — living in the British Isles. The idea was seriously discussed at the end of the 19th century when the Irish Nationalists were demanding home rule. Of course, the British Isles are small and the inhabitants, despite lovingly-cultivated distinctions, quite homogenous. The unitary system might be said to have worked relatively well. But the fall in Tory support in Scotland and Wales is a disturbing sign.

As, needless to say, is Ireland. Anyone who grows up in England is exposed to so much Irish drift that it is natural to assume the wisdom of the unwavering Unionism (and unitarism) of the Victorian Tories. But the experience of North America suggests a doubt. After all, a majority of Irish voted for moderate devolution even in 1918, although the exigencies of the electoral system meant that radical republicans won all the seats.

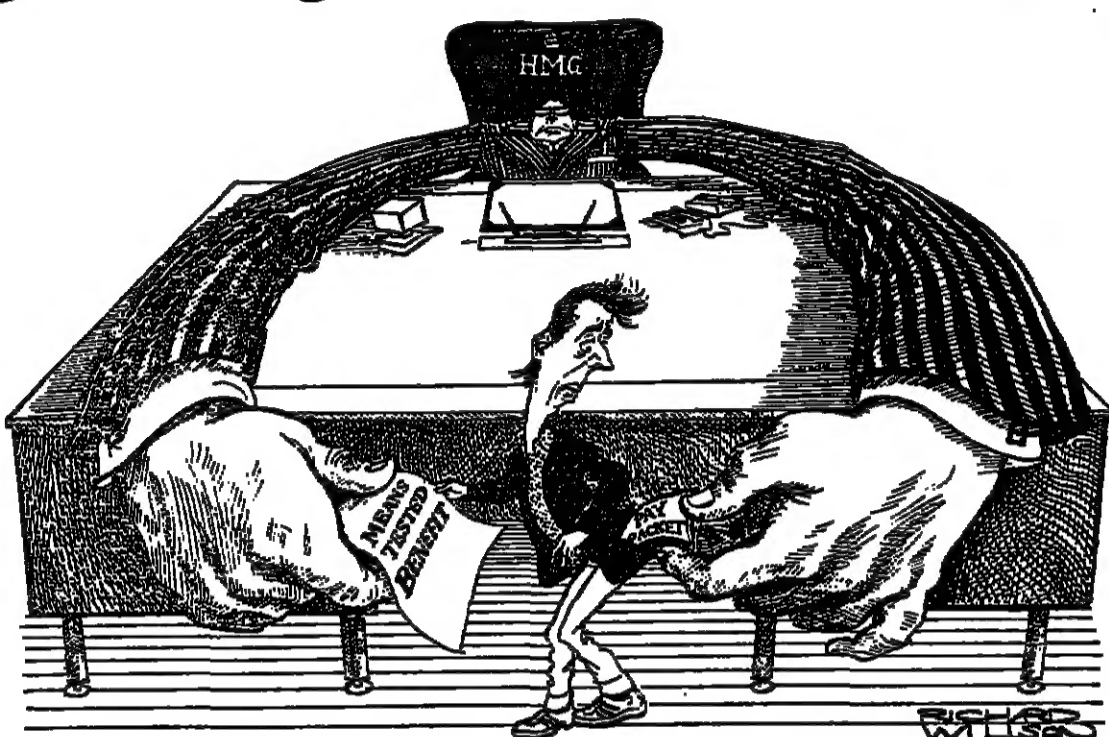
An implicit danger of federalism is that the autonomous unit might gather enough centrifugal force to carry it to full independence. Whether or not this would have happened in Ireland, the process is clearly under way at the other end of Canada. In the latest round of Canadian constitutional tinkering, a weak prime minister, Brian Mulroney, has just been forced to concede the principle that the province of Quebec is the political expression of the French-speaking minority's "distinct society". Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau has denounced this as a "fast track" to the emergence of a separate Quebec.

Some Western Canadians believe that Mulroney's tinkering also destroyed any possibility of an elected Senate, and hence of a solution to the West's problems — for example, tariffs that deny them cheap imported goods and protect the high-cost manufacturers in the cities.

The author, a senior editor of *Forbes Magazine*, recently published *The Patriot Game, a study of Canadian politics*.

Hermione Parker explains how a poll tax could hit the young

The great jobs robbery



are trapped into inactivity by a tax system that cuts in on incomes well below the accepted poverty lines and makes no allowance for the costs of working.

This process of pauperization started during the 1960s when tax thresholds fell in relation to social security benefit levels. But it did not really take off until Sir Keith Joseph introduced the family income supplement (FIS) for low-income families with children, in 1971. It is significant that when FIS was introduced, the income level at which a two-child family paid more in income tax than it received in family allowance was 86 per cent of the FIS prescribed amount. Today it is only 65 per cent, and for a four-child family it is only 52 per cent.

Those figures do not include national insurance contribution or local authority rates. Rates are unpopular for reasons that are well documented, but by comparison with a poll tax they have two advantages. They are related to ability to pay, albeit tenuously, and they do not affect young people newly at work and still living with their parents. Because these young people do not have to pay full rent or rates they are prepared to work for low, trainee wages, even though they may not be much better off than on the dole. If the poll tax is introduced, the parents will have to choose between paying the tax themselves or advising their young to claim rebates and get caught in the welfare loop.

Once again, as with so many other policy initiatives in recent years, the family is under assault. Unable to save by living at home, young people will move out and claim rent as well as poll tax rebates. Spouses who stay together will be mutually responsible for payment of each other's poll tax, but not if they split up.

Benefits such as pensions which are paid on the basis of contribution or (as with child benefit) citizenship carry no stigma and involve minimal bureaucratic hassle. Nor do they involve the same high marginal tax rates as means-tested benefits. By next year working people receiving family credit (replacement of FIS) or the new housing benefit will be lucky if they gain 20p out of each extra pound earned, and the poll tax rebate is unlikely to have a lower taper.

Each time a new means-tested benefit is introduced, either the withdrawal tapers on the overall package have to be increased, in which case the amount gained by the claimant out of an additional pound earned or saved goes down, or the numbers of people caught in the tax/benefit trap goes up. This is an arithmetic imperative from which there is no escape.

Today we have a government that prides itself on reviving the virtues of enterprise and thrift, yet for a large and growing class of welfare claimants it is doing more than any government before it to destroy those virtues. The main

Iran versus the rest: the Gulf line-up

have built up significant naval forces during the past 10 years. Oman has three missile craft and eight patrol craft backed by auxiliaries and the 24 craft of the Royal Oman Police. The UAE navy includes six missile craft, nine patrol craft and 75 other small vessels, coastguard craft and auxiliaries. Qatar operate three missile craft and 30 patrol craft of various sizes. Bahrain has eight missile craft and small gunboats plus 24 coastguard craft while Kuwait has a larger group of eight missile craft and almost 100 smaller vessels and auxiliaries.

Were the Royal Saudi Navy to concentrate its whole force in the Gulf (an unlikely decision), the operational ships from a total of four frigates, four missile corvettes, nine missile craft, 51 patrol craft of varying sizes, two large replenishment ships, 16 hovercraft, four mine-hunters and 30 auxiliaries backed by a coastguard of some 450 patrol craft would be available.

Although the total of ships and craft available to the states of the western shore appears considerable, this armada would be of

little value in combating tip and run raids by aircraft or small surface craft. The radar horizon of the majority is too confined for use against low-flying attackers and, unless a continuous patrol were mounted, there would be little chance of intercepting small craft on suicide missions or mine-laying forays.

Although Iran may still have nine destroyers, frigates and corvettes available or in partial service it seems unlikely that these would be committed to attacks on merchant shipping. The remaining (possibly seven) missile craft are almost certainly bereft of any Harpoon missiles while the attribution rate among the hovercraft squadrons has apparently been high. Probably the most threatening craft available are the 40 or so Customs craft of Swedish origin which have a speed of 40 knots and can carry hand-held missiles. The Iraqi navy has shown little intention of attacking shipping and its light forces, apart from a dwindling number of missile craft, are ill adapted for such operations.

It is difficult to assess the state of the arsenals of the two belligerents.

France has continued to supply AM39 Exocet missiles to Iraq while Iran may have exhausted its stock of American Maverick television-guided air-launched missiles. The Exocets have continued to suffer occasional fuse failure, although those that have exploded have caused damage and fire. This effect has been most marked when the bridge areas and engine rooms have been hit — crude oil at sea temperature has not been easily ignited.

The Iranian Silkworm missiles in the Hormuz area have 1,100 lb warheads and a sea-skimming capability; their explosive power is thus three times more than that of an Exocet.

The requirements for successful counters to attacks and mining in the Gulf can be simply stated. Airborne early warning, surface ship radar warning, concentrated fire by surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles as well as guns and close-in weapons systems backed by radar decoys and chaff. Aircraft intervention should be unnecessary — the US Navy has no doubt learned the lessons of the attack by Libyan ships in the Mediterranean in March last year when devastating counter fire sank or damaged four attackers.

John Moore

The author is editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships*.



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LESSONS FOR THE PRESS

Great claims have already been made for the significance of Mr Jeffrey Archer's successful libel action against *The Star* newspaper. According to Mr Archer's counsel, Mr Robert Alexander QC, it was "the most ruthless libel case of modern times". It has provided ample opportunities for those who hate the press to vindicate their hatred, for those who have long looked askance at contemporary standards of judgement by politicians to express the comforting words "I told you so".

The case has provided a window into the jumbled world of journalism and politics through which future historians will peer with interest — perhaps with horror. But while some truths have come home to editors of newspapers, so has hypocrisy raised a hundred heads. The jury took only a few hours to decide the specific matter of whether on the night in question Mr Archer had sex with a prostitute. Rather longer may be needed to disentangle the more general issues that have emerged in the past two remarkable weeks.

Two newspapers were chiefly involved in the case. The defendant, *The Star*, is a daily tabloid paper owned by Express Newspapers. The Sunday newspaper, *The News of the World*, owned by News International, was the first to allege that Mr Archer had paid money to a prostitute. The then *News of the World* editor, Mr David Montgomery, was called to give evidence by the defence. The editor of *The Star*, Mr Lloyd Turner, pursuing a policy of silence that has added substantially to the disrepute brought upon the press by the papers' more lurid reporting tactics, gave no evidence to the court.

In his concluding speech to the court Mr Alexander posed a series of questions about the behaviour of *The News of the World*. Was it right, he asked, that the paper should create a web of deception to trap Mr Archer over many weeks? Among these deceptions, according to the judge, were the pretence that a reporter was a friend of Mr Archer when he was at that time quite the reverse; the encouragement of Mr Archer to incriminate himself by coaching the prostitute, Monica Coghlan, to tell him lies; the pretence that incriminating photographic evidence existed which did not exist.

To many people the question is hardly worth posing: the newspapers have been found as essentially sinful as Mr Archer has been judged specifically innocent. None the less Mr Alexander's questions are worthy of examination. For our legislators — many of them inherently opposed to the powers of the press to probe behind the scenes which they care to show us — may make much of the courtroom revelations. What circumstances, therefore, would justify the tactics of *The News of the World* in the Archer case? Could such circumstances ever exist?

In the opinion of the Press Council there are certain cases where subterfuge and deception by journalists can be accepted as necessary. The obtaining of information by such means has to be in the public interest and it has to be unobtainable by other means. To this should be added two further points. The first is that the editors of papers who take such action must have *prima facie* evidence that the story which they are attempting to confirm by subterfuge is of some substance. The second, and most important, is that the ends should be in proportion to the means.

With a justification of public interest the tactics of *The News of the World* might properly be used against a Mafia drugs baron, even against a senior politician whose potential blackmail might threaten the security of the country. The allegations against Mr Archer — though *prima facie* worthy of inquiry — were not of that nature. That is not to say that it is of no public interest whether the Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party has sex with prostitutes, only that the interest is greatly below the level that could justify the tactics used.

It is also of public interest whether the Deputy Chairman of the Conservative Party

can be relied upon to tell the truth. But such a public interest cannot justify attempts to encourage lies. On all these grounds the judgement of *The News of the World* in this case was wrong. The actions of *The Star* in publishing a more clearly expressed version of the story, supplemented by the evidence of a worthless third-hand source, stemmed from more familiar failings, carelessness and poor competence. They were not more forgivable than those of *The News of the World*, only more forgettable.

The result of these failings and the consequent massive damages awarded by the jury to Mr Archer is likely to have an impact upon future judgements of and by the popular press. In addition to the clear rejection of the Express Newspapers case there is especially widespread sympathy for Mr Archer's wife, Mary.

As for Mr Archer himself, he remains revealed as an *ingenu* in the real low life world which he sometimes likes to portray in his fictions. The man who was once seen to symbolize the self-help standards of Mrs Thatcher's Britain arranged the payment of a large sum of money to a prostitute. He crossed boundaries between low life and high life, showbusiness and serious business. He was consistent only in the poverty of his judgements. His misfortune was to come up against newspapers who, among other things, took advantage of that fact.

Mr Alexander in his concluding speech — and the judge in his summing up — both made it clear that the newspaper methods used against Mr Archer were at the heart of the issue. It is important, however, that the sense of proportion that was so lacking in those newspapers' behaviour should not also be abandoned by those who seek to punish them.

As well as drawing attention to the "web of deception" Mr Alexander asked the jury to consider other journalistic techniques, the use of "minders" to protect sources, the payment of sources for information, other commercial incentives to people to provide information to one newspaper rather than to another. It is here that hypocrisy raises its head — and is likely to raise it higher in the days to come. For those techniques, legally applied, are justified; and they are as traditional as the papers themselves.

Popular journalism is successful because it is popular. For the reader to enjoy its fruits it is not necessary for him or her to agree with every move that is taken to achieve them, still less to be prepared to do the same things themselves. A free society does not have a single standard of behaviour that must be met by all its citizens in every aspect of their lives. Nor do all newspapers have the same standards.

There are lessons from this case for the press as a whole. The device "friends of Jeffrey Archer" as a code for Jeffrey Archer speaking off the record has been used by this and other papers of authority for many years. It is part of the lobby system of political reporting but it looked surprisingly tawdry in court. It ought not to be used in future.

All editors are paid to make fine judgements. But the editors of popular papers have always trod a particularly fine line between what is legitimate and what is not, what is in society's overall interest and what is not, what society will stand for and what it rejects as a perversion of a normally acceptable profession. The size of the damages may be seen as a measure of the jury's affront at the methods used. The Archer libel case has been an opportunity for that jury to let the people's feelings be known.

Lessons must be learnt. The decisions of *The News of the World* and *The Star* were, each in their different ways, manifestly wrong. They should not be repeated. But it would be wrong too if those lessons were to be distorted by politicians and other critics whose instincts are against what is popular from the start, who resent the powers of the popular press even when they are properly applied.

A SYSTEM AT FAULT

Few of those responsible, however indirectly, for the sailing of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* from Zeebrugge last March 6, have escaped blame for the tragedy which so quickly engulfed it. The report by Mr Justice Sheen on the disaster in which at least 188 people died, is a sad and sometimes shocking indictment of human complacency and error.

The Government has responded quickly. Some of the inquiry's recommendations, like the fitting of indicator lights to the bridge, have already been adopted by Townsend Thoresen. Others, like the introduction of closed circuit television have applications beyond those envisaged in this case, for instance in the detection of wrong-doers.

Meanwhile £1m is being spent on research into the design of roll-on roll-off (roro) ferries, with special emphasis on their stability and the possible need for bulkheads on the car decks. The need to strengthen public confidence in Channel ferries, is obvious in an island such as this. While accidents are exceptional — and major disasters rare — the service is so central to the life of Britain and its economy, that no Government could ignore the lessons learnt.

The reason why the *Herald of Free Enterprise* capsized was apparent within hours of the disaster. That a ferry should put to sea with its bow doors open seemed an act of quite unprecedented negligence. Yet as yesterday's report has pointed out, this was not the first time it had happened.

A system of operation was to blame which has stood the test of time — but little else. "The body corporate" said the judge, in describing the shipping company, Townsend Thoresen, "was infected from top to bottom with the disease of sloppiness." Memoranda had been written and complaints made.

Yet the potential instability of roro ferries was well-known. Correctly handled and operated within safety margins, they are safe enough — and still bigger ships are being

envisaged for the future. But the open car decks make them prone to flooding in the event of sea disasters — with the consequences which are now well understood. It is arguably Whitehall which has escaped blame too easily for failing to impose its own discipline on cross-Channel operations.

What was lacking was a set of clear instructions. The disjointed narrative which has emerged from the 29-day inquiry, implied that too much was left to custom, and chance. Aircraft crews have check lists before they fly and their areas of responsibility are quite clear. It has to be so because the level of tolerance which can be built into heavier-than-air machines is essentially low. From henceforth the operation of roro ferries must also be subjected to a similar kind of discipline.

How far such vessels need to be re-designed has yet to be resolved. The fitting of bulkheads on the vehicle deck is one obvious remedy, since these would prevent water from flooding through. The problem is that these would impinge on the speed of vehicle loading on the ferries and the numbers of cars they could take. The viability of the operation could be called into question — certainly if the bulkheads were fixed and even perhaps if they were mobile or fitted with doors. Public safety must come first and it has emerged from this inquiry that ships' masters have been under pressure to "turn round" quickly.

This is a thorough and thoughtful report, both in its analysis of what went wrong in the Zeebrugge disaster and in its recommendations to prevent a recurrence. It contains lessons for British industry in general, as well as shipping firms in particular, because a *modus operandi* is under scrutiny. For Townsend Thoresen itself the lessons must already be painfully clear — and many corrections have already been made. Such things as happened on March 6 must never be repeated. That is the central message for us all.

Local initiative on house swaps

From Mrs D. M. Ladas
Sir, Families who want to move out of vandalised council estates, to other areas face formidable problems. Such people include single-parent and unemployed families who have no need to live in cities and yearn to escape to a better environment where their children will not be corrupted by filth and lawlessness and their homes will not be broken into.

Because they are entirely dependent on State benefit they will never be able to move on their own. Meanwhile people who have skills needed in London, for example, teachers, skilled workmen and technicians, cannot take up jobs they are offered because they cannot find affordable homes.

When the "boat people" came to England my village in Somerset was able to house a family. Surely many mining villages, where the pit has closed, could find room for a family without a wage earner. It is detailed local initiative that is needed, not the present cumbersome system of trying, half-heartedly, to arrange specific council house swaps.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA LADAS,
154 Peckham Rye, SE22,
July 18.

North hearings

From Mrs Anastasia N. Hackett
Sir, As an American resident in England, I read with horror the article by Patrick Buchanan, "Congress in the dock" (July 21). One wonders upon reading this article if everyone connected with the Reagan Administration is mad.

I have been surprised that no one has yet pointed out to Colonel North or Admiral Poindexter that going against a congressional order is not only flying in the face of those particular politicians, but actually disregarding the will of the people of the United States.

Buchanan lauds Colonel North's heroism in choosing the "moral" path, while Congress dares to pass judgement against him. He reminds us that this Administration is conversant with the right path, the only path.

I find it very satisfying to know that the President is not a dictator, but rather an elected official responsible to a duly elected legislative body. Colonel North and Admiral Poindexter, on the other hand, are not elected officials. They were appointed by the President and, knowledgeable or not, he is responsible for their actions.

Yours sincerely,
A. N. HACKETT,
A Shiplake Court,
Peters Road, NS,
July 21.

From Miss Marni L. Stanley
Sir, Leaving aside his obscene description of abortion and other cheap shock tactics, Mr Buchanan's arguments are also weakened by his peculiar connotation of the word "patriot".

Instead of trying to justify the interventionist policies of Oliver North, he should consider the origins of his country and remember the words of William Jennings Bryan who addressed the nation thus:

Lincoln said that the safety of this Nation was not in its fleets, its armies, or its forts, but in the spirit which prizes liberty in the heritage of all men, on all lands, everywhere, and he warned his countrymen that they could not destroy this spirit without planting the seeds of despotism at their own doors.

Yours faithfully,
MARNI L. STANLEY,
St. Hilda's College,
Oxford.

Royalty and Russia

From Professor Evan Richards
Sir, John Grigg's suggestion of a royal state visit to the Soviet Union is timely (feature, July 18). Such a visit came readily to mind in the context of Mrs Thatcher's recent trip. But Mr Grigg has forgotten his history in claiming that "no British reigning monarch has ever visited Russia": King Edward VII was, of course, at Reval (Tallinn, Estonia) in 1908, for talks with Tsar Nicholas II.

If, as is widely believed, it is the foul murder of the Romanovs at Ekaterinburg that has so long blocked a royal visit, a recent article in the periodical *Sovetskaya Rossiya* may have

helped to remove that obstacle. As reported here, that article speaks of the "tragic end" of the ex-Tsar Nicholas and his whole household, but blames the crime on excessive zeal of the local Ural soviet, the immediate gaolers. (Trotsky, I believe, favoured a show trial of Nicholas II, with himself in the star role of state prosecutor.)

Given the official status of Soviet periodicals, this instance of *glasnost* may come as close as possible to representing a belated official apology or repudiation.

Yours faithfully,
EVAN RICHARDS,
Royal Commonwealth Society,
Northumberland Avenue, WC2.

Sea traffic

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN
Sir, In his letter (July 21) on the future of British air transport, Sir Peter Vasefield suggests that that industry is "as vital to our national prosperity as was the merchant navy in earlier times".

Even more relevant is its strategic significance: a British mercantile marine component remains vital to our security, and thus to our ability to continue to prosper.

Nowadays people go mainly by air, and thus the goods which continue to go by sea — and indeed the whole panorama of opportunity which the sea provides — are that much more out of sight and mind. Sea-blindness is a particularly dangerous condition for an island nation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIMM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire,
July 21.

Calling the community to account

From Mr Roland Rensch
Sir, In addition to providing "accountability", Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the Commons, has claimed that the Government's poll tax is a fair form of taxation (report, July 11).

How can he possibly justify that statement when for the past 13 years the Conservative Party, in and out of office, has been saying that, despite relief for the least affluent, domestic rates are unfair because they are not related to ability to pay? The corollary to that criticism (with which we entirely agree) is that a replacement system should be linked to income — and, effectively, that is what the Tories pledged in their 1974 election manifesto.

Not only do local income taxes (LIT) operate quite successfully in other countries but, according to opinion polls conducted in this country, it is easily the form of compulsory local taxation most favoured by the general public (from all parts of the political spectrum).

As for "accountability", it is apparently regarded as satisfied at the national level by those members of the electorate whose incomes are insufficient to attract income tax. That being so, provided the same thresholds are employed (as obviously they would be), then by the same token non-LIT payers should also be seen as satisfying the "accountability" aspect. To argue otherwise seems to us to be illogical.

If the Government insists on going ahead with its poll tax, the tragedy is that millions of pounds of public money will be spent in implementing a system which, because it has only minimal support, will have to be dismantled in the future — with further considerable expense to the public purse. If it believes in acting responsibly then, surely, this Government must think again — and fulfil its original pledge.

Yours sincerely,
ROLAND RENSCH
(Deputy Chairman,
National Union of Ratepayers' Associations),
8 Minshall Place,
Park Road,
Beckenham, Kent.

From Mr D. J. Lewis
Sir, You quote Mr John Wakeham as referring to "the horrific prospect of property revaluation which would bring massive increases in rate bills".

Surely this is taking political rhetoric to absurdity? Rates are payable on the basis of a percentage of rateable value adjusted each year to take an actual sum of money. Any given increase or decrease in rateable value does not directly or automatically lead to an increase or decrease in rates payable.

Indeed, a much overdue revaluation would clearly be equitable. Its effect would be to increase liabilities on those whose properties have risen in value and reduce them for those where they have absolutely or relatively

Surplus food aid

From Professor H. W. Singer
Sir, In your editorial about the common agricultural policy and the corresponding US and Japanese policies ("Growing sanity", July 8), you very rightly say that something has to be done to slow down this merry-go-round of subsidy, leading to surplus, leading to greater subsidy. However, you fail to mention among the methods of doing so the possibility of breaking this merry-go-round by disposing of some at least of the surpluses through additional food aid.

I know that the official UK position (more so than in most other western countries) is sceptical and critical of food aid; and admittedly food aid must be carefully handled to be an incentive to development rather than a disincentive. Yet such ways of handling food aid are not unknown and with proper effort and control could help both to reduce surpluses and speed up economic development.

The FAO, the US Department of Agriculture, the International Food Policy Research Institute and other sources have estimated the need for food aid at double the present volume. Surely the use of burdensome surpluses to reduce malnutrition of poverty groups and children (turning stone into bread) should not be excluded from discussion?

Yours faithfully,
H. W. SINGER,
University of Sussex,
Institute of Development Studies,
Brighton, Sussex,
July 9.

From Mr M. A. Lynd
Sir, Mr Lamont's reasons for imposing retrospective tax legislation (report, July 16) are astonishing. It would appear that a great many tax payers have acceded to demands by the Inland Revenue, for tax to which it was not entitled.

Now that the courts have ruled that these taxes were illegally raised, the Government is introducing retrospective law to ensure that those tax-payers cannot reclaim their own money which they should never have had to pay in the first place.

To call this an "unacceptable benefit" or a "windfall tax advantage" is merely to try and disguise the Government's refusal to give back taxes illegally demanded by the Revenue.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. LYND,
50 Fox Dene,
Godalming,
Surrey,
July 16.

Shepherd's dilemma
From Captain P. D. Tatton-Brown, RN
Sir, The dipping time for sheep comes round again. The instructions are clear, "Push the head under once or twice. Take care the sheep do not inhale or swallow the wash".

As they are in the bath for 60 seconds, how does one achieve this? By word of command? Yours faithfully,
PETER TATTON-BROWN,
Grasspark,
Brayford,
Barnstable,
Devon,
July 22.

Dividends from BAA share-out

From Mr M. J. Baggett
Sir, If I understand the basis of the BAA allocation correctly, some 2,150,000 people will receive 100 shares each at an ultimate cost of £245. On the estimated yield this will mean half-yearly dividends of about £4 each — hardly enough to buy a round of drinks these days.

The costs of calculating, processing and distributing these tiny payments, together with a copy of the company's annual report, to which all shareholders are entitled, seem likely to exceed the value of the dividend payments themselves.

While one sympathises with the dilemma which the Government has created for itself, one must question the commercial wisdom of saddling the new plc with such an administrative burden in pursuit of a purely political objective. Hardly free market economics! Yours faithfully,
M. J. BAGGETT,
The Rising,
Off The Square,
Aldridge,
Somerset,
July 20.

ON THIS DAY

JULY 25 1887

The French were pioneers in the art of ballooning and parachuting, which derived from it. Blanchard, a celebrated balloonist, is credited with staging the first parachute descent, using a dog, in 1785.

FATAL RESULT OF THE PARACHUTE DESCENT

We regret to have to state that the experiment of the descent of the parachute has terminated fatally to Mr. Cocking. In consequence of the announcement that he was to ascend in his parachute suspended to the great Nassau Balloon, a great number of persons, amongst whom were many of the first nobility of the country, assembled in the gardens to witness the experiment. Without the gardens, upon Vauxhall-bridge, and upon Millbank, the crowd was immense. The shape, dimensions, and construction of the parachute have been already described; it may therefore be sufficient to say, that it was in shape an inverted cone, not very unlike an umbrella turned upside down. It was in circumference 107 feet four inches. From the bottom of this machine, which was constructed of fine Irish linen, a basket of wicker was suspended, in which Mr. Cocking placed himself. The basket, the cord was attached to the car in which were Mr. Green and Mr. Spencer, was between 40 and 60 feet. The ascent of the balloon took place about 20 minutes before 8 o'clock. When Mr. Cocking entered the basket of the parachute he was perfectly collected, and exhibited no appearance of want of nerve or indecision.

Mr. F. Gye, who was particularly anxious in his attention to all the arrangements of the experiment, and who was entitled to every praise for the manner in which he exerted himself to prevent the possibility of accident, continually in the course of the day, and up to the very moment of the ascent of the balloon, advised Mr. Cocking, if he felt the least timidity, to relinquish his attempt, and undertook to allay any ill-feeling that might arise amongst the public at the disappointment. Mr. Cocking, however, professed himself most anxious to carry his announcement into execution; and after thanking Mr. F. Gye for his kindness and solicitude, professed himself most eager to ascend. At 20 minutes to 8 o'clock, every thing being in readiness and the parachute attached to the car of the balloon, the ascent took place.

It was expected by those in the gardens that Mr. Cocking would have descended so near Vauxhall as to afford them a view of his descent. This was not the case. A son of Mr. Gye was the first person who announced to our informant the fatal catastrophe. This gentleman followed on horseback, and arrived in a field, near Lee, in Kent, just in time to learn that the parachute had descended with such violence that Mr. Cocking had lost his life in his experiment. It appears that the descent of the parachute was made over a field close to Lee, that on approaching the ground the parachute, from some cause or other, most probably from the hoop which distended the external circumference being composed of a hollow tube of tin collapsed, and consequently opposed no resistance whatever to the atmosphere, but turned over and over in the air, and came down with a frightful velocity.

It is but justice to say, that this fatal result is attributable in no manner to any person connected with Vauxhall or with the balloon. Mr. F. Gye endeavoured, but in vain, to persuade Mr. Cocking to have the hoop of the parachute of ash, but that unfortunate gentleman, from a notion that tin would be sufficiently strong and much lighter, refused to listen to his suggestion. This is all that is yet known authentically of the melancholy termination of the experiment.

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July 25-31, 1987

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

MRS VANDERBILT'S MOON

From the robber
baron splendour of
Rhode Island's most
exclusive avenue,
Bernard Levin
reports on this
month's Newport
Music Festival

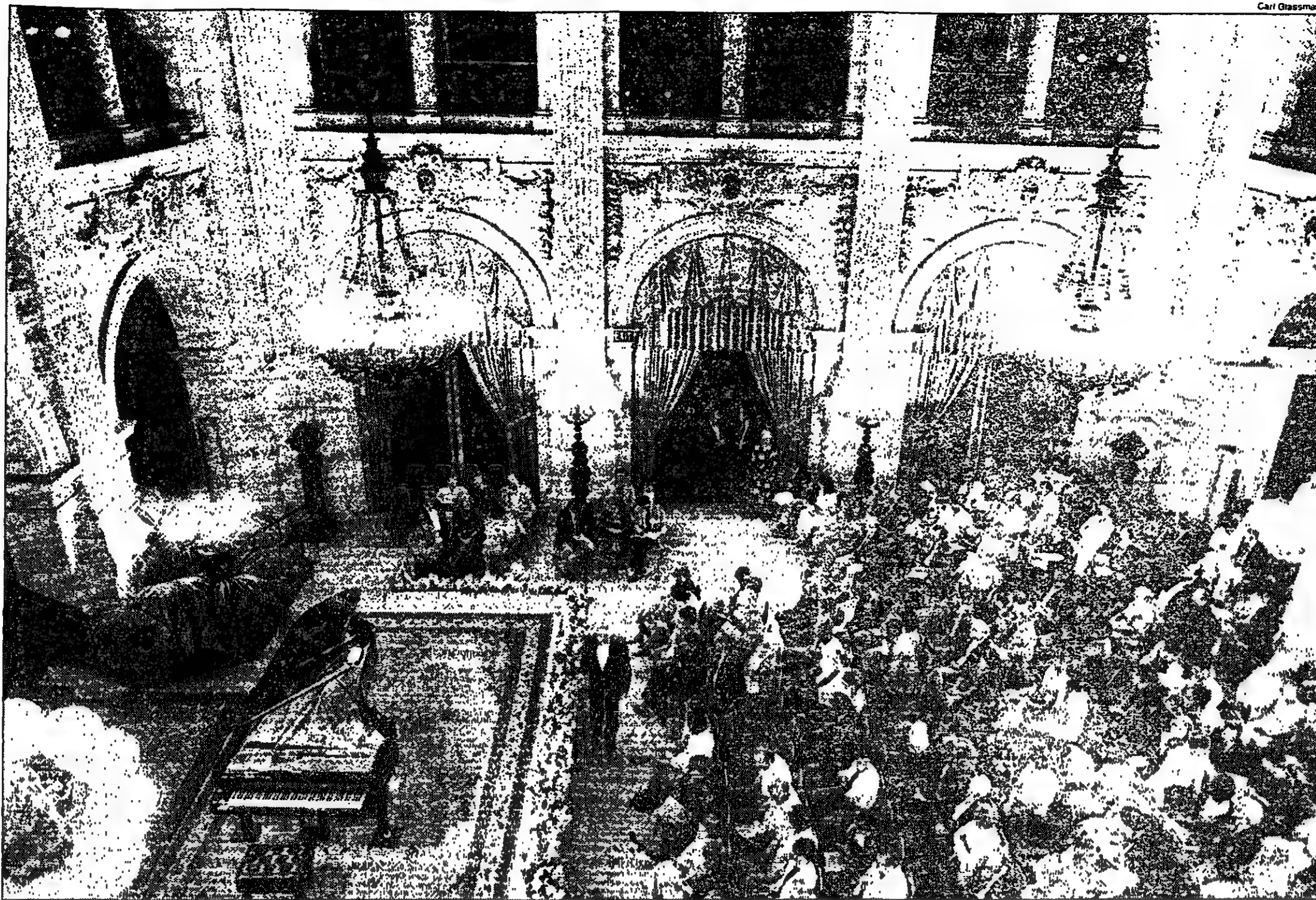
Where are at a concert in a stately home built on a scale that Kublai Khan would have found daunting. To be precise, we are in the ballroom, which is three stories high and has a *trompe-l'oeil* ceiling of blue sky and cotton-wool clouds, presumably — no, quite certainly — because the real weather cannot be trusted to meet the owners' exacting standards at all times.

At the end of the room there is a staircase, up (or down) which a cavalry regiment with a full complement of horses and artillery could proceed in line abreast; it forks a few hundred steps up, and the twin branches continue to climb until even the keenest eye can no longer see where they go; the general opinion is that they finish on Aldebaran.

When the interval comes, we wander out on to the terrace, which is roughly the size of Yorkshire. Dusk has fallen; the air is sweet and mild; the sea can be heard gently lapping on the shore just beyond the lawn, which in turn is roughly the size of Scotland. As we gaze upon the scene, a glass of Tattinger in hand, there sails up the sky, icily, haughtily, refusing to speak to anyone without a formal introduction, the silver orb of Mrs Vanderbilt's personal private moon.

This is Newport, Rhode Island, of which it may truly be said that if it did not exist it would now be quite impossible for anyone to invent it. Now impossible; but its modern fame was invented, virtually overnight, about a hundred years ago. For Newport was the place picked by the great American "robber barons" of the 19th century to build their palaces and to fill them with their loot. Bellevue Avenue runs north-south for four miles, from the centre of the town to Rhode Island Sound, and along it, strung out like choice pearls on a necklace (and no damned nonsense about cultured ones), are the giant mansions of those giant rogues, paid for from their giant profits, and built as giant, enduring monuments to their giant pride.

Come with me down this amazing street, with its vistas of amazing mansions. We start modestly, with Kingscote, patterned after a Greek temple, though actually made of wood; then things rapidly get grander. Here, for instance, is The Elms; it is a copy of the Château d'Agnes at Asnières, built for Julius Berwind, who specialized in cornering America's entire supply of coal.



Expectations: the audience awaits the pianist in the grandeur of the three-storey ballroom at The Breakers, a Vanderbilt mansion, one of the sumptuous venues on the concert-goer's festival itinerary on Rhode Island

Where other houses have wallpaper — that is, all over — The Elms has Louis Quatorze tapestries; it also has a golden piano in working order, and a sunken garden that could accommodate the Grand Canyon, with enough room left over for the Tuscarora Deep. For that matter — and here I stop exaggerating and present nothing but sober fact — the main bedroom is 40ft across.

Next comes Château-sur-Mer, a copy of a Loire château, only bigger. This was the William Wetmore pad; he made his millions in the China trade, and a good few millions they must have been, to judge by Château-sur-Mer, where the entrance hall is 45ft high, and the staircase up it is lined on both sides with 16th century stained glass.

And here is Roseliff, built by the Oelrichs, whose fortune was founded on silver-mines. No mere

châteaux for them; Roseliff is a copy of the Grand Trianon at Versailles, and the ballroom is 80ft by 40ft. Beyond Roseliff is the bijou des res. of the Astors, where the term "The Four Hundred", meaning the 400 most fashionable folk in the United States was coined, derived from the fact that the ballroom could comfortably hold 400 dancers.

A little further, and we are at Marble House, the one where the ballroom is entirely covered in gold leaf and the dining-room (in pink marble), has bronze Louis Quatorze chairs so massive that each diner was furnished with a servant who had no other duty but to move the thing whenever the guest wanted to uncross his legs or sneeze. At Belmont Castle, the owner, Oliver Belmont, went one better; well, several better, really. His dining room could — and did — seat 350 guests, lit by a pair of 17th century chandeliers, said to be the world's biggest (and looted from an Italian monastery); the stained glass in his ballroom was 13th century, and — presumably because the castle was for once not modelled on a French palace (it resembles the White House) — the ballroom fireplace was designed as a Loire château.

And here is the sea. But on the way back to town, we must make a diversion because the only one of these monsters not on Bellevue Avenue is The Breakers, Architectosaurus Rex itself, which is where the concert with which I started was taking place under Mrs Vanderbilt's moon. The Breakers, patterned after the Italian Renaissance, has 70 rooms, and it is said that 6,000 tons of marble were used for the interior alone; the ceilings are covered in gold and silver, and the outer gates, in wrought-iron, are 30ft high.

I forgot to mention that the hall door at Marble House is 25ft across and weighs 10 tons.

This is Gatsbyland; indeed, the film was shot here. But Newport is far older than the generations of newly-rich who built Bellevue Avenue. Away from the great house, the town is an enclave, almost perfectly preserved or restored, of Colonial buildings. It is nearly as old as the Pilgrim Fathers, for it was founded by a group of freedom-loving families who rejected the iron theocracy of Massachusetts and fled it for somewhere they could breathe more freely. Presumably, the fame of Newport's tolerance spread rapidly, for the first Quakers to settle in America made for Newport, in 1657; more remarkable is the fact that in the following year the very first Jews to land in the New World made their homes in this lovely place, and Newport is proud to possess the oldest synagogue in North America. On the other hand, Newport's original prosperity was built on the slave trade, in a most ingenious form. Ships sailed from Newport to Africa with cargoes of rum; the rum was exchanged for slaves, and the ships then sailed with them to the West Indies and exchanged them for molasses, from which

rum is made. A cut from each side of this equilateral triangle soon built up Newport, by the middle of the 18th century, into one of the richest cities in the East. In the War of Independence, however, the town was bitterly fought over and largely destroyed; it might have become a second Boston, but is now a community of only some 30,000 people (the numbers hugely swollen in the summer by armies of visitors), resigned to being — or rather delighted to be — a charming backwater. (Newport had one more flutter of history; during the Civil War the North's Naval Academy was sited here.)

It's a sportive town, in both senses of the word. The huge harbour is crammed with yachts, some of them sufficiently opulent to suggest that the Vanderbilts and their friends have returned in their original splendour, and although there is the usual round-the-bay-for-10-dollars trade, the sailing is taken seriously; after all, this is the home of the America's Cup race. There is serious tennis, too; the Tennis Hall of Fame is a building holding not only a museum of the sport, but the country's best-known grass courts, with tournaments to match.

At first sight, the wharfs look only quaint, full of tiny shops with achingly fashionable facades; look closer, though, and you will see that they are not selling junk. A miniature art gallery houses not Grandma Moses reproductions but fine Inuit sculptures; a shop selling costume jewellery proffers not the usual mass-produced rubbish but beautiful and imaginative designs; another, full of beach clothes, eschews not only T-shirts but Bermuda shorts; and in Le Bistro there is a quite startlingly good meal to be had.

The great mansions are now owned by the Preservation Society, and kept up meticulously as tourist attractions. But there is still a vast amount of money sloshing about in Newport, even if it is not flashed about so obtrusively as it was when Bellevue Avenue was young. Gatsby would certainly still feel at home at some of the parties; indeed, he would have given most of them, and would certainly have invited the Claus von Bulows, for it was here that the remarkable events took place.

But now I must tell what I was doing in Newport, for I am no yachtsman, and still less a tennis-player, and the mansions of the American rich are small beer compared to my memory of the weekend I stayed at the Môt et Chandon Château de Saran and drank the stuff in every great vintage from 1911 to modern

times. The clue is that concert at The Breakers; Newport, for the last 19 years, has had an annual Music Festival for a fortnight in July (in addition to the Jazz Festival in August, though that lasts only a couple of days), and it is remarkable for two reasons. The first is that the concerts are held in the palaces of Bellevue Avenue; there are three a day, morning, afternoon and evening, and we scuttle from Roseliff to Beechwood and from The Breakers to Marble House, and sit amid the gold leaf and the stained glass and the pink marble and the view of the terrace and the lawn and the sea beyond. What price the Queen Elizabeth Hall after that?

As for the second special quality of the Newport Festival, I must introduce you, if he will stand still long enough, to Mark

Malkovich the Third, who looks like a particularly amiable bear, and is one of those glorious lunatics without whom the world would not go on, and wouldn't be worth living in even if it did. He is the Director of the Festival, and has been there 13 years past, and I have offered a prize of ten thousand dollars, advertised in the local newspaper, for anyone who can walk a quarter of a mile through Newport, arm in arm with Mr Malkovich, and not be stopped at least a dozen times by citizens wanting to shake his hand and pass the time of day with him. (The dynasty, incidentally, is assured; he and his wife kept introducing me to their immense collection of handsome sons, one of whom is called Mark after his father, grandfather and great-grandfather; there is also a daughter, who will soon be the cause of an epidemic of insomnia in Newport, spread by the incessant noise of young men shooting themselves on the Malkovich doorstep in the middle of the night for hopeless love of her.)

The Newport Festival cannot compete for the greatest international stars with the rest of the festival-strewn world (though it did manage to bag Shura Cherkassky this year). It is always short of money, like all small festivals, but now a fairy god-mother has descended upon the place, out of the rising sun; Yamaha have not only guaranteed sponsorship, but scattered pianos through the town in astounding profusion.

Armed with such confidence, Mark Malkovich has repeated the extraordinary trick he has been playing for 13 years: short of the foremost names of music, he sets himself to devise programmes so extraordinary, so rich and so rare that they can do (and should) draw music-lovers from thousands of miles away. He ransacks the lesser-known works of better-known composers and the unknown works of little-known ones, and comes up every time (and there were 38 concerts this year) with a vast array of discoveries, revelations and astonishments, exquisitely and unerringly juxtaposed; there was hardly a bar of it

all that I wasn't delighted to hear, and quite four-fifths of it new to me. (He even found some Schubert — Schubert! — that I didn't know, and a piece of Rachmaninov that nobody knows, because he found it in manuscript, unpublished, in the Library of Congress.)

Newport has one more trick to play. It is called Cliff Walk, a sufficiently explicit name. But every visitor to the town must take it at least once, because the kings of Bellevue Avenue built their palaces, for the most part, facing the sea, so that those walking down the Avenue see only the hindquarters of the mansions (imposing enough, to be sure), and for the greatest vistas they must have their backs to the water, and look across the lawns to the majestic facades.

No one builds like that any more; Forbes and Onassis and

Khashoggi (and look what happened to him) and their like have neither the imagination nor the self-confidence to stare down a world in which these monsters built these monsters, and recked neither the cost nor the consequences. Like the brontosaurus and the mastodon, they have vanished utterly from the world, leaving no more than a heap of bones from which the experts deduce what they looked like. But in Newport, for a moment at dusk, they come to life, terrifying and ridiculous, unscrupulous and philanthropic, revolting and sublime. As I left, I paused for a final moment, and faintly, far off, there was borne on the breeze the sound of Oliver Belmont greeting his 350 dinner-guests, and Mrs Astor opening the ball. Half admiring, half appalled, I raised a hand in salute.

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TRAVEL 2

هكزامن الاكحل

Taking the plunge on the canal

Michael Young goes narrow boating on the Grand Union, and discovers that messing about in boats is fun even when the rain pours for a week

From the moment Bruno, a large Alsatian, missed his footing, crossing the lock gate and plunged into the foaming water, the holiday aboard a canal boat seemed set for farce. Not that there was much farce in the creature's imminent demise. I had a momentary vision of canine mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and of explaining to my two wide-eyed daughters how dangerous the water could be.

Bruno took his dive at our second lock out of Berkhamsted on the Grand Union Canal. As initiates in the art of narrow boating we were lucky to follow the canal boat Walrus through the first two locks. Its crew of two, resplendent in matching heraldic Walrus pullovers, were obviously old hands and prepared the lock on each occasion well in advance of our arrival. All we had to do was nudge our 55-foot long, pencil slim boat neatly alongside theirs with hardly room for a cigarette paper between the two of us.

Bruno spluttered and disappeared again beneath the water, dragged down by his thick, shaggy coat. His owner was by now on the verge of hysteria. Every few seconds Bruno stuck his nose above

the boiling water and gasped for air only to sink again. After what seemed an age, but was probably seconds, he broke surface close enough for the owner and myself to grab a handful of sodden hair. Then with a vigorous shake and a hearty cough he bounded away. I, too, was by now quite wet... a phenomenon I had to come to terms with this week, for the rain fell almost continuously.

One of the most difficult things to do with a canal boat is steer it. And it can only be steered while standing in the open, which is fine in good weather.

Yet, ultimately, the weather

lent a delicious solitude to the voyage. As we climbed the edge of the Chilterns from Berkhamsted to Tring Heights, our diesel chugged steadily through the eight locks up, through Northchurch and Dudsell.

The summit is contained in a long, wooded cutting where the water is still and the slopes clad in gloom. Not another boat was to be seen as we lumbered alongside families of moorhens, their vermilion and yellow beaks vivid against the jade green water, and their young spinning in paroxysms of anguish at our passing.

There were herons at almost every turn of the cutting along

to Tring reservoir, their reserved gestures as they waded in the muddy shallows in marked contrast to the swans which slipped alongside our boat with equanimity.

The following day a sharp left turn slung the boat under a low narrow bridge and into the Wendover Arm. This was a serious navigational error. The Wendover Arm proved to be an ever narrowing and meandering cul-de-sac. We managed to turn round, but not until after we had grounded both ends before returning to the mainstream.

A great deal of push and shove was required to open the lock gates. On rainy days we had the canal to ourselves. Even the locks were spectator-free and our pushing and shoving was carried out in splendid watery isolation. Apologies, though, to the Sunday afternoon car rally taking place thereabouts. Each driver who screeched to a halt alongside Dudsell Lock as we cranked and heaved called to us through the downpour for a location check. By the fifth or sixth inquiry I was able to call back with confidence that this was indeed Dudsell Lock. Only later did we discover that Dudsell Lock was half a mile away.



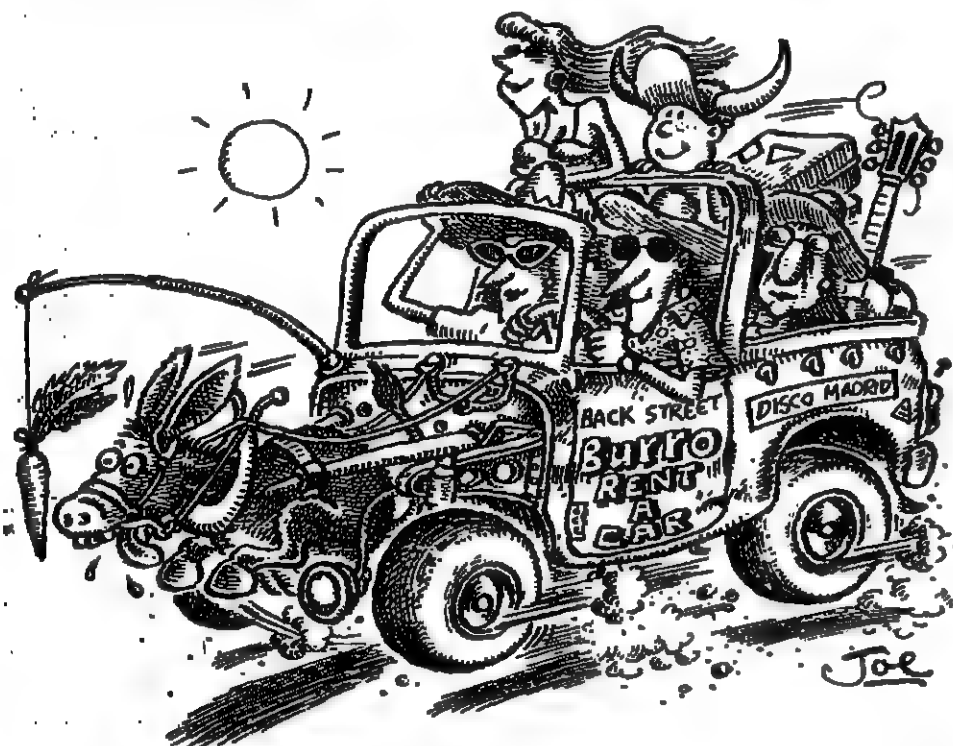
Just one more heave: Hauling a narrow boat into the side on the Grand Union and (inset) aboard one of the vessels

TRAVEL NOTES

Luxury canal boats with showers, flush lavatories, television, stereo, and central heating are available from Bridgewater Boats, Castle Wharf, Berkhamsted, Herts. (04427 3615). Prices

range from £250 a week for a four-berth boat in low season to £850 for an eight-berth in high season. The season runs from the last week of March through to the end of October.

Which are the best of the wheel deals?



Is it better to book car rental here at home before you set off on holiday, or when you arrive?

For many years the best deals were to be had from the little-known firms clustered round airports or tucked away in the back streets of every city.

But now the major rental firms have realized they were missing out on a large and growing market, and so today tourists all around the world are being wooed with a variety of promotional deals. This means that it is now possible to rent from an internationally respected company for much the same price as a local firm would charge.

Those who enjoy the challenge of finding the cheapest deals should be careful to check all the add-ons and that there is a breakdown service included.

Renting from international companies like Avis, Hertz or Europcar gives holiday-makers the right to expect and demand good service. It also means that the cars are likely to be newish, and if there is a breakdown, the chances are there is an efficient back-up service to get you going again. And if things still go wrong, then there's the comforting thought that the matter can be taken up with the UK office when the holiday is over.

Each firm uses its own marketing term for overseas promotional rates, such as Super Value (Avis), Europe on Wheels (Hertz), Leisure Drive Europe (Budget) and World-wide Super Drive (Europcar). To qualify for the deals, the

Alex McWhirter examines the rival firms competing for car hire

rental must be booked in this country for a minimum of three days. Advance booking is essential. This ranges from 24 hours (Europcar) to three days (Hertz) to as much as seven days (Avis/Budget).

Pre-payment — allow extra time to complete the paperwork — guarantees the rental charge in sterling. The alternative, settling the bill overseas with a credit card, still guarantees the special terms but not, of course, the prevailing exchange rate.

Some firms are helpful enough to offer all-inclusive rates, where the final rental charge includes the "hidden extras". Things, for example, like local tax, CDW (collision damage waiver) and PAI (personal accident insurance). Together, these extras can make a significant difference to the bill.

Final prices to any single destination can still vary considerably.

Taking Malaga as an example during the busy month of August, there is a 30 per cent difference between the cheapest and most expensive rates for a small, group A car (Ford Fiesta or similar) for one week. Avis's quoted rate of £98 seemed the best buy. But when CDW, and PAI insurance are added, plus 12 per VAT, the rate jumps to

£143.21, the costliest of the four.

Prices from the big four for a week's hire with unlimited mileage in Malaga are as follows:

Budget Leisure Drive. £109 fully inclusive of CDW, PAI and VAT.

Europcar Holiday Super Drive. £118 fully inclusive of CDW, PAI and VAT.

Hertz Europe on Wheels. £129 includes CDW and VAT. Additional charge for PAI (2100 pesetas) £10.24, totals £139.24.

Avis Super Value. £98, plus CDW (4,024 pesetas) £19.63, plus PAI (2,100 pesetas) £10.24 totals £127.87, plus 12 per cent Spanish VAT, equals £143.21.

If you do decide to compare local prices on arrival, knowing the rates quoted in Britain may be a useful bargaining tool. In the end, of course, prices depend on supply and demand. Obviously bargains will be thin on the ground on a Saturday morning in August, but the story could be quite different on any Wednesday in November.

A significant development this year has been a new fly-drive link between British Airways and Hertz. Both companies have issued a joint "Affordable World" brochure which offers BA passengers keenly-priced car rental throughout much of the world.

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OUT AND ABOUT

Sons of the borders

The ancient town that
gave birth to a
motoring legend
is visited by
Nigel Andrew as it
celebrates a king

For most of August the Welsh border town of Monmouth will be *en fête*, celebrating the 600th anniversary of the birth of one man.

He stands in a niche overlooking the marketplace, awkwardly posed and with a notably vacant face. He is Henry V, and he was born, on either August 9 or September 16 — no one is quite sure — in Monmouth Castle.

Sadly little remains of his actual birthplace, only the romantic ruins of the Norman keep, best viewed from the far side of the river Monnow. But it was indisputably here that the future Henry V was born in 1387. Monmouth seized on the importance of that fact — and its implications for tourism — as much as 200 years ago: the statue in the niche dates from 1792. Henry's 500th anniversary was celebrated with much pomp and revelry in 1887, and this year Monmouth is pulling out all the stops.

Large numbers of townspeople have been involved in putting together an ambitious community play called *Bordertown*, a panorama of Monmouth life at the time of the Owen Glendower rebellion. (It was the young Henry who put down the Welsh on that occasion, but it seems all too obvious now.) The last performance of the play coincides with the beginning of the Monmouth Festival — eight days of revelry, much of it with a vaguely medieval flavour, including an archery contest and an ox-roast. Even the Monmouthshire Show (on August 27), a great traditional county show, will have a display of jousting.

All this seems oddly out of character for Monmouth, a town which has none of the rather twee and self-conscious quality of its neighbour, Ross-on-Wye. Monmouth has the feel of a place which works for its living and has no need to sell itself too hard to the heritage-hunters. A solidly handsome town, its history can be seen and felt in its medieval street plan and its wealth of good Georgian buildings.

Agincourt Square, the marketplace which Henry overlooks, is the centre of town, lively and full of colour. Markets are held here every Friday and Saturday (and a cattle market down by the Monnow Bridge on



The two heroes... in foreground Charles Rolls, and behind King Henry Mondays, and then the pubs stay open till 4pm.

The best of them are the two huge old coaching inns on the square, each with an imposing black and white Georgian facade. The King's Head is the grander, with an impressive menu — including Wye salmon and trout. The Beaufort Arms, with its lovely courtyard at the side, is faded but full of local character.

In the square, with his back turned to Henry, stands a statue of another famous son of Monmouth, Charles Rolls of Rolls-Royce fame. His mother, Lady Llangattock, was a passionate collector of Nelson relics, which she left to the town: they can be

seen in the Nelson Museum on Priory Street. Nelson mania in fact seems to have a long history in Monmouth, which also boasts a curious Temple of Naval Worthies, high on a hill called the Kymyn, some two miles out of town. I recommend the walk to only the fit and willing, for it is all uphill. But when you get there the views — over nine counties — are truly astonishing.

A gentler walk follows the Wye Valley Path out of town, through fields a little too close to the bypass, to the lovely little church at Dixton. A beauty of Monmouth is that you can



The Pouch House pub

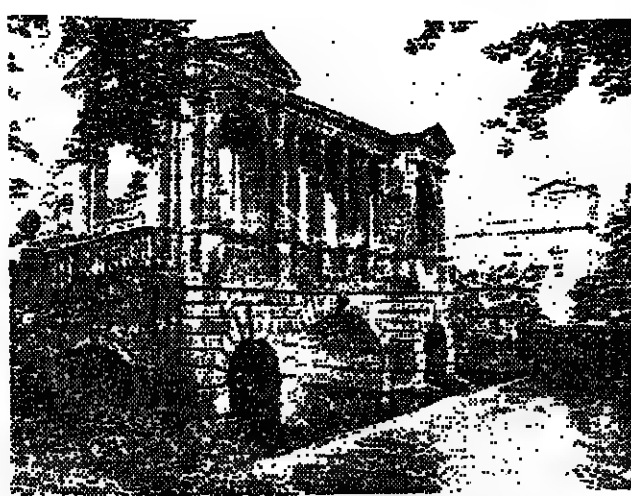
so easily walk out of it straight into the most marvellous countryside. It has not only the banks of the 'sylvan Wye', still a river of rare beauty, but also the more intimate Monnow, crossed by a justly famous bridge.

This Monnow Bridge is crowned by a feature quite unique in Britain, a 13th-century fortified bridge gate. It is a curious sight, with something about it of the walled town of Italy or France. At the start of the Monmouth Festival it will, as usual, be 'stormed' and 'broken in twain' by a supposed marauding army on their way to the celebrations in Agincourt Square.

There is much more to see in Monmouth, but it is not a town of dazzling highlights, rather a richly rewarding place to potter about in. As well as a vast number of pubs, there are tearooms galore — including the Emma Hamilton Tea Rooms (restored 18th century) — and good browsing in the pedestrianized Church Street, which has an excellent bookshop (Brian Stevens).

Monmouth was the stopping-over place on the 'Wye tour' from the 18th century on. It is still a superb town from which to tour, surrounded as it is by natural beauty and historic buildings galore, particularly the great border castles. And for this festive month, Monmouth will have yet more to offer — thanks to Henry V.

For further details of events in Monmouth, ring the Monmouth Tourist Office. Tel. 0600 3898.



A Palladian bridge in the beautiful grounds of Wilton House

An ancient war amid the roses

OUTINGS

SOUTH OF ENGLAND FLOWER SHOW: Set in the delightful grounds of Wilton House, a huge floral marquee at which a number of Chelsea exhibitors will be present. Also an antique collectors' fair, trade stands and craft stalls. Arena events include parachute and falconry displays and heavy horses. Wilton House, Wilton, Wiltshire, (072274 3115). Today, 10 am to 6 pm, tomorrow 10 am to 5 pm. Adult £3, child under 16 £1.30.

TATTON VICTORIAN GARDEN FESTIVAL: Today, enthusiasts' day with competitions, judging guided tours. Tomorrow, family day with entertainments. Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, (0565 54822). Today, 10 am to 6 pm, tomorrow 10 am to 5 pm. Adult £2, child under 16 £1.

HOLKER HORSE TRIALS: Novices, intermediate and advanced riders compete in jumping, dressage and cross country events. Holker Hall, Cark-in-Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, (0445 53328). Today, tomorrow, 9.30 am to 6 pm. Adult £2, child 6-16 £1. Under sixes, free. Separate admission charge to house and motor museum.

CRAFT FAIR: Craftsmen and women demonstrate their skills and sell their products. Benningbrough Hall, Shipton-by-Benningbrough, York (0804 470668). Today, tomorrow, 12 noon to 6 pm. Adult £2, child £1.

THE ERMINE STREET GUARD AT LITTLECOATS: Displays of Roman military life given by re-enactment society. The fine Tudor Manor house contains a

superb armoury and Great Hall. You can also visit a working craft village. Littlecoats, Hungerford, Berkshire (0488 84000). Today, tomorrow 10 am to 4 pm. Adult £3.50, child aged 4-14 £2.50, under-4s free.

WARWICKSHIRE STEAM AND COUNTRY FAIR: Huge gathering of vintage working steam machinery plus an old time fair and circus. Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire. Today, tomorrow, 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.50. Admission to house extra.

KNIBSWORTH SPECTACULAR: Full programme of arena events includes aerial and parachute displays, helicopter rides, wild west rodeo, side stalls and other fringe entertainments. Knibsworth, Leicestershire, (0438 812681). Tomorrow, 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.50. Admission to house extra.

ROSE WEEKEND: Gardeners' question time with television and radio gardening presenters and the President of the RNSR at 2.30 pm today. Varied entertainments. Rosemary Rosess and Gregory's Rosess, Stapleford Lane, Toton, Nottinghamshire (0602 481100). Today, tomorrow, Admission free.

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Leave the village past the walls of Raoston Park turning right shortly on to the footpath that climbs on to Hambledon Hill. The path then descends to the road into Child Okeford.

Through Child Okeford turn left past Gold Hill on to a track and then right on to a footpath through the fields and water meadows of the Stour back to the bridge at Hammon.

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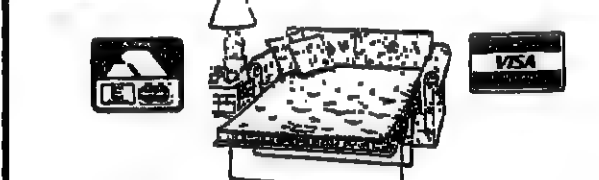
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THE TIMES COOK

It's open season for the salmon



Frances Bissell cooks for the multitudes and explains how the simple recipes can sometimes still be the best

I'm writing this at midnight. Normally I prepared dinner for the two of us but for the past week I have been cooking for two hundred. I have been invited into the kitchens of one of London's grand hotels to cook my recipes for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Once again I have been surprised and delighted at the way in which domestic recipes for four or six translate into much larger quantities, and yet the final dish produced tastes the same as it does at home.

It is exciting, too, to be able to work with quality ingredients in such large quantities. Instead of a few sprigs of elderflower for the syrup, or a small bunch of lavender for the sorbet, whole boxes of fragrant blooms. Not just six quails but 20 or 30, stuffed with tarragon, sizzling away in a large copper pot. On the other hand, sometimes small is best. The wonton wrappers for one of my salmon dishes come in small packs from the local Chinese supermarket, just as you or I would buy them.

Of course, I have learnt from my mistakes. Some things are simply not a good idea on a large scale. When I last did a spell in a hotel kitchen, at The Mandarin in Hong Kong, I included one of my favourite dishes on the menu, a warm salad of scallops, sole, asparagus and mangetout. Mangetout for six is fine but not topping and tailing a bushel of the things. It is a boring task at the best of times, but for three hours! So, my present menu has rather simpler dishes, not as labour intensive, I hope. The emphasis is on fresh local produce with lots of fruit, vegetables, fish — and even flowers for the sorbets and ice-creams.

At this time of year, whether I'm cooking at home or in public, I always include plenty of salmon recipes.

After Wimbledon, it comes right down in price and stays low until the middle of August. My local fishmonger is selling it for £2.70 a pound, and it will probably drop to £2.50 a pound, half the price of sole and monkfish and scarcely more than cod and haddock. "Stock your freezers up now," his notices say, but instead, I shall just serve salmon in lots of different ways over the next few weeks. Its distinctive flavour and firm

texture make it suitable for many different preparations, including marinating, smoking and serving raw. I do urge you to try it raw, dressed in oil and a little lemon juice or vodka and fresh lime juice. It is utterly delicious and delicate. It is always a good idea to buy the whole fish. It is cheap and economical, giving you bones, head and bits for stock to make a lovely salmon soup. Fillets for grilling or poaching and left-over pieces to make potted salmon, salmon tartare or small salmon savouries in puff pastry.

Another dish which works for two, twenty or two hundred at this time of year is melon in mint syrup. If you are making the dish in any quantity, use different types of melon then you will have a pleasing mix of colours — pink from the Canteloupe or Charentais, green from the honeydew and yellow from the Galia.

Grilled salmon in orange butter sauce

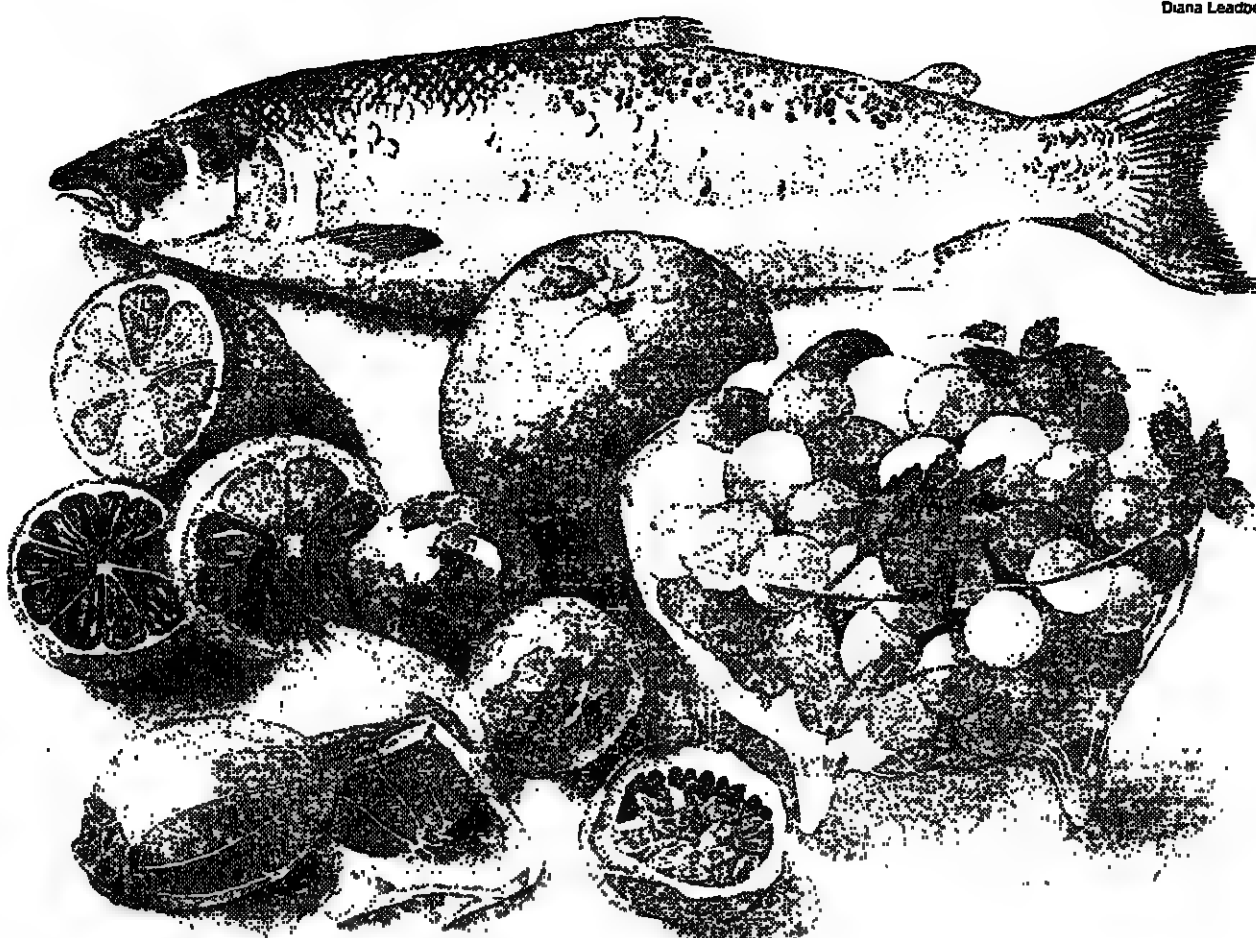
Serves 4

- 4 salmon fillets, about 8oz/200g each, with skin left on
- 2 oranges
- 1 small onion or 2 shallots
- salt, pepper
- 1 oz/25g chilled butter, cut into cubes

Fillets of sea bass, sole or turbot prepared in this way are equally good. It is important that the fillets are roughly of the same shape, size and thickness.

Grate the zest from the orange on to a shallow plate, and squeeze on the orange juice. Peel and thinly slice the onion or shallot and place in a single layer on the plate. Place the salmon fillets in the marinade, flesh side down, which you have just seasoned very lightly. Marinate for 30 to 40 minutes. Heat the grill, place the fish on the rack, skin side up and grill for 5 to 8 minutes, depending on the thickness of the fillet and how well done you like fish.

Meanwhile, strain the marinade into a shallow pan, cook and reduce until syrupy. Beat in the cubes of chilled butter one at a time. When heated through, divide the sauce amongst four heated serving plates and lay a piece of fish



alongside it. Garnish with dill, parsley, watercress, capers, samphire or whatever you have available that is green, fresh and sharp. You can achieve a similar effect by adding a tablespoon or so of fresh passionfruit juice to the mango marinade.

Raw salmon salad
This is delicious served with a few branches of lightly steamed samphire dressed with a little hazelnut oil and lemon juice. Or with pickled samphire and brown bread and butter. If you can't get hold of samphire watercress or a delicate young spinach salad would do well. This preparation bears some relation to the famous buried salmon, gravad lax, but does not need to marinate for nearly so long. Sometimes I marinate the fish in malt whisky in honour of the fish's ancestral home but I also like to use vodka.

- Serves 4
- 2 measures (ie ½ pint) vodka
- large pinch sea salt
- freshly ground pepper, black or white, 8 turns of the grinder
- juice of half a lime
- dash of cayenne pepper
- pinch of sugar

8oz/200g freshest salmon fillet, skinned

Combine the first six ingredients in a china bowl. Trim any ragged edges from the fillet and remove all bones. Slice the fish as neatly and thinly as possible on the diagonal, as you would smoked salmon. Put the slices into the marinade and leave for 30 minutes, covered, in the refrigerator. Turn the fish once or twice to make sure that all of it has been covered by the marinade. When ready to serve, remove from the marinade and arrange on individual dinner plates.

Mushroom salad

Serves 4-6

- 1 lb/450g button or cup mushrooms
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons red or white wine
- Thinly peeled ring of half a lemon, lime or orange
- ½ teaspoon coriander seeds
- 1 small onion

There seem to exist two schools of thought about mushroom salad — one for cooking them, one for leaving them raw. Sometimes I follow one, sometimes the other. Let us cook this one. Wipe and

slice the mushrooms. Heat half the olive oil in a frying pan and quickly stir fry the mushrooms: no more than a minute at most. Remove from the heat and transfer to a flat serving dish. Blend the rest of the oil with wine and pour it over the hot mushrooms. Add the lemon peel and the coriander. Stir in. Thinly slice the onion and add to the mushroom mixture. Allow to cool, chill and serve with brown bread and butter. The hot mushrooms absorb the flavour of the wine and olive oil and give off their own juices to form a delicious dressing.

Veal kidneys in Roquefort sauce

The first time I tasted this dish was at a restaurant in the Avenue Jean Jaurès in Paris, in the heart of the meat market district. Then it was made with the freshest, most delicate lamb's kidneys I have ever tasted. I have never been able to find such good lamb's kidneys here, so make the dish with veal kidneys.

Serves 4

- 1½ lb/700g veal kidneys
- 1 onion, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon mild mustard
- ½ pint/150ml white wine or dry cider

2 tablespoons good stock 4oz/100g Roquefort

Remove the skin from the kidneys. Slice into ½in/1cm pieces and with kitchen scissors snip out the fat and gristle from the centre. Marinate for at least a few hours in the wine mixed thoroughly with the mustard, onion and garlic.

When ready to cook, heat a non-stick frying pan. Drain and dry the kidneys, reserving the marinade. Sear the pieces on both sides and cook for 3-4 minutes; the kidneys should still be slightly pink. Remove from the pan and keep warm. Add the marinade to the pan and reduce slightly. Add the stock and reduce a little more. Crumble the Roquefort and let this melt in the sauce. Return the kidneys to the sauce and heat through. Serve garnished with chopped chives or parsley.

Green beans could accompany the kidneys well. They should be steamed or boiled and served well still crisp and bright green. Some broad pasta ribbons would help soak up some of the juices.

It is very easy to overcook offal, so that it becomes tough, dry and unpleasant. I had a disaster with this particular dish when I was planning to serve it to two discriminating guests. The kidneys were cooked just a few seconds too long and I decided they were overcooked and could not be served in this way. I dashed out to the supermarket but didn't like the look of the lamb chops or the steak on sale. My husband Tom had the brilliant idea of rolling out some fresh pasta dough, chopping the kidney in the food processor, to which I added cream and herbs, and I ended up serving ravioli stuffed with kidneys, accompanied by a Roquefort sauce. It worked.

Melon in mint syrup

Serves 4

- 1 bunch (about 75g) fresh mint plus a few choice sprigs for garnish
- 3 oz/75g sugar
- 7 fl oz/200ml water
- juice of 1 lemon
- 1 melon, scooped into balls or 1 lb/450g assorted melon balls

Wash the mint and strip the leaves from the stems. Put the sugar, water and lemon juice into a heavy saucepan. Heat gently until the sugar has melted, then boil to reduce by a third. Stir in the mint leaves. Boil for 30 seconds, remove from the heat and allow the syrup to cool. To extract maximum flavour from the mint, put the leaves and syrup into a blender and process for a few seconds. Place the melon balls in individual glasses or a large dish and strain the syrup over them. Chill and serve garnished with fresh sprigs of mint. Excellent for a late Sunday breakfast.

DRINK

Bitter-sweet life of a chocolate challenger

Lunching with three friends last week in Paris at the inimitable Willi's Wine Bar, I was confronted yet again with The Chocolate Problem.

Château Magence '85, a white Graves, was fine with the intriguing crab and cucumber salad. Olga Raffault's celebrated, chilled '85 Chignon (it was a hot day), was perfect with the carpaccio. And then a decidedly English trio of puddings, just about the only evidence in this chic ex-nightclub of a wine bar that Willi — Mark Williamson — is an Englishman.

Crème Brûlée à la Cambridge, in honour of the university that created it, did not hamper my dessert wine selection process, neither did caramelized peaches or a bowl of red summer fruits, but my

I munch and slurp my way through a wide range of sweets and dessert wines

order for Willi's famous rich, dark, bitter chocolate slice, most certainly did.

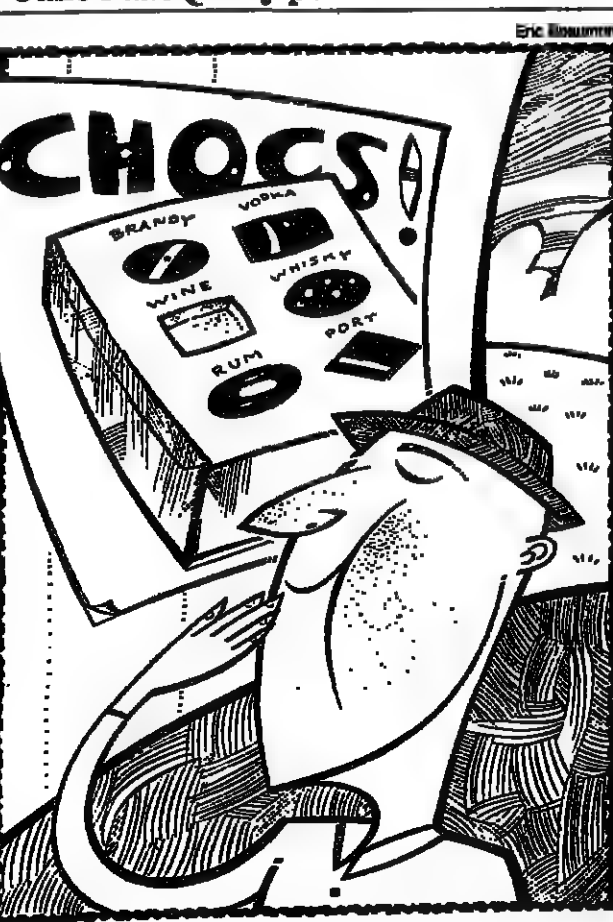
Sauernes, its inexpensive neighbouring taste-alike Sainte-Croix-du-Mont, and Henri Rochais '79 Chaudes, Coteaux-du-Layon were the three major sweet wine choices. The Chaudes won, as both Mark Williamson and I felt its invigoratingly high acidity — balancing the wine's sweetness — would be more refreshing on a hot day. Clinging but totally flabby and spineless with my bitter chocolate.

Back in London, armed with bars of Bourville's Plain Chocolate and Cadbury's Dairy Milk I once again tackled The Chocolate Problem head-on, an annual event, whereby I munch and slurp my way through a wide range of chocolate and dessert wine combinations.

Round One featured a sweet white wine versus chocolate battle. First in was a pleasant half-bottle of '81 Filbot, a well thought of Sauernes property, that cracked immediately when faced with the chocolate, tasting acidic with the Dairy

Choosing the correct wines to go with each course can be a difficult task particularly with desserts.

Jane MacQuitty put some to the test



Milk and too soft and lightweight with the Bourville.

More alcohol, more weight, I said to myself, so on to a half bottle of '85 Muscat de Beaumes de Venise, that luscious, aniseed-like extraordinarily popular, but somewhat simplistic, aperitif and dessert wine. Its medium weight certainly coped with the chocolate but its flavour didn't aniseed and chocolate don't melt in the mouth, they clash.

On up to an Australian Late Harvest '85 Muscat Blanc, from Brown Brothers, whose aniseed flavour again jangled and jarred with the chocolate. The best bet in this sweet wine selection was Scholtz

Hermanos's 1985 Solera Malaga, whose unusual, sweet, raisin-like palate and smoky, rose-scented bouquet made a tolerable, rather than happy, marriage with both chocolate bars.

My tastebuds by this stage had wilted beneath the weight of sticky, alcoholic, chocolatey sweetness. So Round Two took place the next day. The United States was responsible for this round — for word reached me from California that trend-setting American foodies have been partnering big, beefy New World red wines with chocolate, presumably working on the principle that the often chocolaty character of these wines could

perhaps partner chocolate itself. I remembered too that in Italy winemakers occasionally offer a cube of chocolate with their richest and most powerful red wines, such as Barolo, rather than bread or cheese, as is the custom elsewhere.

Foolishly, I started in with a delicate, flowery '86 Fleurie, a hopeless choice, as this elegant Beaujolais turned into a mean, acidic mouthful when coupled with either of the chocolates. Red wine No 2, a hefty and actually rather horrid '82 Shiraz from South Africa, was definitely nastier with chocolate than without.

A full-blooded California Cabernet must, I reasoned, be the answer. But whose? Mature Cabernet was what I was looking for, a wine whose young, ripe fruit had mellowed and taken on some aged, and (one hopes) compatible with chocolate, overtones. This rules out most California wineries youthful offerings.

Italian winemakers offer chocolate with their reds rather than bread or cheese

Their Cabernet wines available over here are mostly either from the '82 or '83 vintages.

Fortunately Brooks and Kane Firestone have just released a small parcel of their extraordinary, powerful '75 Cabernet Sauvignon to Majestic Wine Warehouse at the knock-down price — for an aged California wine that is — of £4.95 a bottle. This big, exotic, jammy, blackcurranty mouthful, complete with a slight creosote and woodsmoke-like taste, will not go down well with everyone. A friend thought it more like alcoholic Ribena than anything else, but remarkably it does marry well with chocolate.

Finally, if you think that pairing wine with chocolate is an absurd idea, try René Niel's amazing cocoa and vanilla Fine Liqueur de Cacao (Majestic £10.95), whose sweet, smoky, chocolaty taste is laced with brandy. • Willi's Wine Bar, 13 Rue des Petits-Champs, 1er.

Crémant Champagnes, the softly, sparkling, dark horses of the champagne world, are rarely seen and often misunderstood.

Their gentle sparkle stems from the lower pressure behind the cork, rather than the usual gush from fully sparkling or mousseux champagnes. This lack of vigorous, frothy bubbles make them ideal to drink with a meal as there is none of that burping aspect that some palates suffer from when drinking fizz with food.

The difference, however, between a creaming, or crémant, fizz with its lower pressure and a fully mousseux wine is not however immediately obvious. It is only if you compare the two side by side that the soft, crémant bubbles become apparent.

Mumm's Crémant de Cramant is the best known such champagne available but in recent years its quality has been disappointing. Happily another champagne house specializing in crémant wines, that of Alfred Gratien — founded in Epernay in 1864 —

The cream of the creaming

has stepped in to fill the gap.

What is remarkable about this champagne house is that although their annual production adds up to only 12,500 cases, they have a big reputation, especially in the UK, for their full flavoured nutty, oak-fermented, slightly oxidized champagnes. Although Alfred Gratien's non-vintage champagnes are fully sparkling wines, all their vintage fizz are crémant wines. Alain Seydoux insists on this crémant approach because he feels that it allows the flavour of the grape to come through clearly and not be masked by the bubbles.

This week I had the good fortune to taste seven different Gratien vintages together at an Arthur Rackhams tasting. This family-run, small, off-licence group has 14 different

branches in London and Surrey and stocks a wide range of Gratien champagnes, while its Vintner Wine Club, (VWC membership £12 annually from The Vintner Ltd, Winetare House, 5 High Road, Byfleet, Weybridge, Surrey, or via one of the branches), has small stocks of the older vintages.

I started with Alfred Gratien's non-vintage Cuvée de Réserve, whose verdant, deep fruity, almost peppery, style makes it a good non-vintage buy. (Rackhams, £10.99; VWC, £10.70; The Market, £11.99; The Winecellars, £10.99). The orange pink non-vintage rose (Rackhams, £12.99; VWC, £12.45), with its gutsy green character, is perhaps less worthwhile but no one could

fail to be impressed by the glorious, deep fruity, biscuity, honeyed style of the '79 Alfred Gratien (Rackhams, £15.69; VWC, £14.75; The Wine Society, Gunners Wood Road, Stevenage, Herts, £14.80).

More impressive still is the rich, honeyed, hazel-nutty '76 (Rackhams, £25.99; VWC, £25; Winecellars, 153/155 Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18, £16.59). The smoky-toasty '73 with its buttercup-gold colour and streamlined palate was also good (Rackhams, £27.59; VWC, £28.50; Winecellars, £19.25), as was the peppery, herbaceous '69 (Rackhams £38.79; VWC £37.25).

I found the '70 a lighter, elegant, more flowery Gratien style (Rackhams, £30.79; VWC, £29.55), while the '66 (Rackhams, £44.99; VWC, £43.35) still had a creamy mousse plus a fine, smoky, peppery, flavour. To finish, the delicious '64 with its soft, creamy mousse and ripe, elegant digestive biscuit style (Rackhams, £48.35; VWC, £46.50). Heaven!

J. M.

Wines of Westhorpe — for more wine value

RESERVE WINES

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- Reserve Dulanovska Merlot 1978 — much smoother, less oaky 22.20

Other value for money offerings from Bulgaria:

- Melchior White — light, crisp, acidic, balancing lot of perfume, low oaky, full 19.20
- White Sauvignon — light, crisp, acidic, balancing lot of perfume, low oaky, full 19.20
- Melchior Red — light, dry, oaky, full 19.20
- Melchior Sweet White — oaky, full, balancing lot of perfume, low oaky, full 19.20
- Reserve Oradevina Merlot 1978 — much smoother, less oaky 22.20
- Reserve Oradevina Merlot 1978 — much smoother, less oaky 22.20
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THE ARTS

Battle of the sexists

The first time a woman ran in the Boston marathon — having smuggled herself into the field under an ambiguous name and bulky clothing — an official physically intervened and tried to halt her by force.

This was the most spectacular example of anti-female discrimination featured in *Women at the Olympic Games* (Channel 4), but by no means the most idiotic. From their revival in 1896, the modern Games were intended for male competition, with "female applause as reward", even when women's events were grudgingly admitted, it was pronounced that they should be "aesthetic".

This programme made more of an impact with its irresistibly funny old footage of pre-war competition than with its

TELEVISION

American spokespersons dropping in about patriarchy. The truly alarming concomitant of "parity" in sport might be not so much the emergence of world-beating Amazons as the spectre of men's synchronized swimming, complete with deliciously tormented toes.

We should be duly grateful that the late Grace Kelly did not follow in the outside footsteps of her Olympic rowing-champion father. How would those frothy ballgowns have looked with bulging deltoids? *Hollywood Legends* (also Channel 4) profiled this "storybook princess" with a storybook narrative: Kelly was beautiful, determined, talented, intelligent; her favourite food was hamburger; she wore white gloves to the audition of *High Noon*; she won an Oscar at 24 and married a prince at 26 — The End.

Nobody's life is quite like that, and the recent revelations about the star's affairs with her leading man — that she had not, so to speak, saved herself for a Rainier day — will have enhanced this programme's air of studied unreality. Despite Alec Guinness's old story of the Indian tomahawk with which he and Kelly repeatedly spiked each other's beds (try and get a symbol out of that, Herr Doktor), one was left wondering whether this cut-glass beauty actually existed.

Martin Cropper

Canadian reports from the Stratford Festival in Ontario and a convention for comedians in Montreal

Oh what a lovely stage war!

Irving Wardle files a dispatch from the frontline of Canadian theatre and reveals how *Cabaret*, *Mother Courage*, *Journey's End* and other war plays are winning the box office battle for audiences

THEATRE

The 39th season of the Stratford Festival — progenitor of Canadian theatre, and the last surviving classical outpost in North America — opened with a revival of *Cabaret*. Stratford, Canada, in other words is having to market itself like Stratford, England.

Thanks to its energetic pursuit of business sponsors and the practice of doubling the box office take on musicals by moving them from the Avon Theatre to the main stage, John Neville's regime has succeeded in arresting inherited deficit and balancing the books for this year.

To forestall accusations of a modern sell-out, *Cabaret* also has a thematic role among a group of productions which the administration variously describe as the "war season" and the "peace season". It is here that doubts set in.

Beginning with Neville's decision to revive *Troilus and Cressida*, the season took shape with four other "war" plays, including *Mother Courage* and Robin Phillips' forthcoming production of *Journey's End*. They make a neat piece of programme planning, but from the three I saw, there is precious little gut impulse behind it. Rather — following Neville's statement: "We are in jeopardy on this continent" — they display the conscious effort to imagine what war is like by a country that has long been at peace.

Much the most successful is Brian Macdonald's production of *Cabaret*: the work of a musical director who really knows his business, and who manages to combine long-range glamour with point-blank tat in the Kit-Kat Club scenes.

Cabaret is no political masterpiece, but here, at least, its public events are not overshadowed by the central relationship. Sheila McCarthy takes a coldly distant view of Sally Bowles as a foolish child of the time; conversely, Scott Wentworth strengthens the usually wimpy Clifford so that the fable clearly emerges as the education of an America innocent.

Neville's production of *Mother Courage*, also on the main stage, begins in Thirty Years War helmets

and ends with tin hats and sand bags, pausing along the way to show an atom bomb going off. The message comes over loud and clear, backed up with some very respectable acting from James Blendick and Richard Curmuck, and the unsinkable Susan Wright in the title role. But, no less than *Cabaret*, what comes over is a distanced view of the miseries of Europe, rather than Brecht's close-up of war as a hum-drum daily grind. The soldiers sound very threatening, but nobody feels the cold much.

The less said of David Williams's modern dress *Troilus and Cressida* (Avon Theatre) the better. Switching between Trojan locker-room frolics and drag parties, and Grecian conferences where Ulysses addresses a hut-full of gum-chewing louts as "Princes", it is an event of self-destructive insensitivity. When Ajax spends an entire scene kicking Thersites round the stage and ramming his head into the privy, the text similarly goes down the drain.

War accounts for less than half the season's productions, and Stratford has better work to offer once you get behind the front lines. At the Avon, a robustly orthodox *Cherry Orchard* is paired with *Nora* — Ingmar Bergman's re-working of *A Doll's House*, which originally appeared in Munich as part of a sex-war trilogy together with *Miss Julie* and Bergman's own *Scenes From a Marriage*.

It is a case of two Swedes against one Norwegian, and Bergman has pulled it into line by amputating the naturalistic clutter (along with the servants and children) so as to isolate the heroine in a central pool of light into which her visitors step, unannounced, from a darkened perimeter. As the setting is as much in her mind as in the marital cage, *Nora* (Lucy Peacock) is able from the start to communicate the dread and resentment under her doll's smile.

When she does rebel, Bergman has another trick up his sleeve. The scene changes to the bedroom, with Torvald (Joseph Ziegler) awakening to see his wife fully dressed for departure. Their roles are reversed:

and the farewell scene shows a venomously wrathful woman reducing a defenceless naked man to blubbering anguish. Brian Rintoul's production is unevenly cast, but it uncovers darker recesses in Ibsen's nursery than I had previously suspected.

The news, as I arrived in Stratford, was that Neville had decided not to seek a renewal of his three-year contract, which expires in 1988. So ends yet another short-lived regime, and as there are no obvious Canadian-born candidates for the succession, interest is fastening on the former artistic director, Robin Phillips, who has three productions in the present season.

For the small stage *As You Like It*, Phillips had the dazzling idea of playing the Arden scenes in the overalls and wide hats of the Menonites — a self-sufficient pastoral community on Stratford's own doorstep. Otherwise the production marked a harmonious collaboration of fresh young acting and clean directorial visions.

The *School for Scandal*, on the main stage, opens with the sight of William Hutt's Sir Peter delivering a bitterly wounded account of the Prologue while, behind him, an undraped courtesan writhes in an illuminated cage. Solemn baroque strings then herald the appearance of Donald Adams's Snake, hissing in black leather. Phillips, in short, has connected this safe old comedy to the poisonous ceremonies of *Les Liaisons dangereuses*. Behind a bewitched facade of London pleasures — rides on giant silver horses, and fireworks that go on forever — a great deal of simple human damage is going on.

The production scores the usual laughs (it would take uncommon talent to stifle them), but its heart is on the side of the melancholy old husband and his abused brother, Douglas Campbell's Oliver de la Motte, on the scandal-mongers as an avenging thunderclap. As for Mr Hutt, he can extract four laughs from a single perfectly-timed line: more remarkably, he can enlist Sheridan to bring tears to your eyes.

Irving Wardle



Deadly serious: Lucy Peacock in a scene from Ingmar Bergman's *Nora*, based on Ibsen's *A Doll's House*

No joke being a comic

David Housham on the serious business of making people laugh for a living

COMEDY

Comics like John Mendoza, Rich Jeni and Richard Belzer snarled out pugnaeous patter and common comic themes revolving around urban violence, drugs, fat and ugly people, pets, Ronald Reagan, rampant sex urges and big-breasted women. The more self-confident these comedians are, the more North American audiences respond to them.

Britain's Norman Lovett, a veteran of London's alternative cabaret world, found his act of subtle self-deprecation fell on mostly baffled ears, compared to Glasgow's Craig Ferguson. His abusive "Big Hitler" act of railing against weaps and bees scored on two points of being loud and about animals.

Honorary Brit, the Chicago-born Ruby Wax, despite some excellent material, discovered that Canadian cover from hectoring comedy delivered by a woman.

As it turned out, Rowan Atkinson was a big hit with the Montreal audiences (his BBC *Blackadder* series is popular on Canadian television), particularly with his very visual sketch of a silly sign-language news broadcast for the deaf.

Harry Enfield, (best known for his kebabseller Stavros on CTV's *Saturday Live*) chose to play an outrageously drunken British general and was greatly appreciated by the Canadians, especially when he closed with some singing-cigarrete ventriloquism.

The Americans' routines were moulded by the tremendous aggres-

sion needed to succeed on their highly competitive club circuit and its tough, unforgiving audiences.

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Both composers were linked in their common heritage of Brahms.

Noël Goodwin

Second time lucky

DANCE

Bolshoi Academy Coliseum

The second of the Bolshoi Ballet School's London programmes is more fun than the first. As before, the choreography is mainly mediocre, the decor at best indifferent, at worst ludicrous, but the dancers have more scope to show their talents.

It begins with a set of extracts described as from *Paquita*, in an arrangement by Sofia Golovkina. This is at all times a somewhat protean ballet, beginning and ending with some pretty ensembles that Petipa created in 1881, but with the intervening solos varying at the pleasure of the producer — some of them usually from other old ballets.

Golovkina's version supplements the usual solitary man dancer with two extra male soloists, one of them dancing to music from *La Bayadère*. All three men made a good showing, with Yuri Klevtsov, dark and intense, being particularly good.

Among the women, Veronika Fokina especially pleased for her smiling freshness; and now one can identify her as the blonde who is particularly enchanting in a curious trio called *Spring* given on both programmes.

Although *Paquita* has less for the corps de ballet to do than *Swan Lake* did earlier in the week, what it does contain shows off well their best

qualities: a pleasantly unaffected manner, nice slim legs, an innate dignity.

One point noticeable all evening was that the youngest dancers, presumably about 16 or 17, seem all to have a very proper, classical manner which among their slightly older colleagues is often overlaid with affectation or a hard-sell manner: is this some reflection on how the graduation class is taught?

More than half of the brief showpiece numbers in the middle of the programme are different, on the whole much for the better. Andrei Nikonov and Viktor Isaichev looked highly promising in their duo from *Laurencia*, with a sustained buoyancy in its many jumping steps. *Semyora* allowed five of the men to show off their best folk dance steps, vying for the attention of two young women.

Galina Stepanyenko's virtuoso piece this time was the *Don Quixote pas de deux*. Again she showed some dazzling fouettés and a brilliant manner all through. A most enjoyable performance, but she does not yet have the easy, playful style that can light up these dances and there are some hints in her limited turn-out and set of her shoulders and neck that she may not be destined for the very top.

Her partner was again Alexander Monakhov, and they took the leads also in extracts from *La Fille mal Gardée* — mostly, if not entirely, from the final scene I suppose.

John Percival



Part of the cast of Rossini's *L'occasione fa il ladro*

Rossini steals the show

OPERA

L'occasione fa il ladro Buxton Festival

"Mainly Spanish" is the theme of this summer's Buxton Festival, but its first opera evening is distinctly Italian — or at least Anglo-Italian. Rossini's eighth opera, *L'occasione fa il ladro* (Chance Makes a Thief), is the chosen work and the selection is spot on.

The piece is composed with verve and vitality and has been unaccountably neglected, apart from a French production in the mid '70s, although Pesaro, Rossini's birthplace, is to recify that in next month's festival, when the violinist Salvatore Accardo makes his operatic conducting debut with it.

After listening to Buxton's version, neatly translated by Alan Freedman into Edward J. Dentese and staged almost as a Pinner farce by Malcolm Fraser, it is easy to understand why he chose it. The scoring throughout is a joy from the opening orchestral storm — Rossini's first — to the final trio of disentanglement.

The problem to be unravelled is that of switched baggage — the opera's second

title is *Il cambio della valigia* — outside an inn for Rossini, but at a railway station, which looks like part of the old LNWR, in this English version. Macclesfield, all change for Buxton, presumably.

As a result of the switch, a roving adventurer takes on the identity of a count and sets off to claim the latter's rich fiancée. Naturally that wily lady has changed places with her maid to size up her unknown suitor. Rossini was to return to the theme of the master taking on the servant's features in *La cenerentola*.

Buxton's cast are as spruce and sparky as Roger Butlin's black and white sets. Claire Daniels, a late addition to the cast, makes a witty fiancée once over her first aria and

Jean Rigby an uncompromisingly sexy maid. Abram Morales is yet another in the line of American tenors capable, just of dealing with Rossini's high-lying vocal line: Gordon Sandison's adventurer is an old dog with enough life left in him to make use of a handy piece of luggage and he has a useful servant of his own (Steven Page), who knows how to handle a Rossini patter song.

L'occasione is long and strong enough to stand by itself and at Pesaro it will. Buxton made the mistake of using Donizetti's first opera *Il pigmalione* as a curtain raiser. It is no more than a *scena lirica*, of the type Haydn turned out, in which Pygmalion sculpts the figure of Galatea. After a tenor marathon (Jeffrey Talbot game but colourless) she is brought to life, but the centrepiece — for this is what it is — remains, like Galatea, statueque. There is a foretaste of *Lucia* in the orchestra at one moment, but the conductor Anthony Hose hardly made the most of it.

John Higgins

Clipped Mermaid gets a relaunch

PROMENADE CONCERT

BBC SO/von Dohnányi Albert Hall/Radio 3

certainly make brilliant use of orchestral resources. The performance made listeners aware of its qualities in this respect, as they also were of the equivalent fantasy and sometimes surprisingly delicate detail in the *Burleske* by Richard Strauss.

Nobody can tell if he would have approved and nobody seems to have questioned whether he might have suppressed the work after its premiere in 1905 for his own good reasons.

Certainly the cuts applied to the middle movement deprived us of some of the best instrumental writing in its exuberant fantasy, to contrast with the late-Romantic refuge of the opening movement and the darker character of the finale.

Zemlinsky's obvious references to other composers like Brahms and Mahler, even a motif that comes note for note from Tchaikovsky, only helped to shape a musical personality that was still in the making, but one that could

Although nearly 80 years passed between the first and second performances of Zemlinsky's *Die Seejungfrau*, his symphonic fantasy on Hans Andersen's "Mermaid" story achieved its British premiere to launch Thursday night's Promenade concert.

Christoph von Dohnányi brought to bear his enthusiasm for the composer, a contemporary and teacher of Schoenberg, with an orchestra that was resplendent performance, but one that still shortened what Zemlinsky first wrote by slightly more than a quarter.

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Claiming the Eighties

JAZZ

Wynton Marsalis Festival Hall

So far, you would have to say that in jazz terms the 1980s have belonged to Wynton Marsalis, the dapper 26-year-old trumpet virtuoso from New Orleans.

Charlie Parker ruled the Forties, Miles Davis the Fifties and John Coltrane the Sixties, more or less; no one stepped forward to claim the poor, hung-over Seventies, and the lack of leadership cost jazz dear. Now there is a figurehead again, and the sky is clearing.

Wynton Marsalis is not afflicted by the terrible, all-devouring innovative impulse that drove Parker, Davis and Coltrane. His brief is reassessment, recapitulation, rebuilding. To those who still remember the exhilaration of being tossed on the storms of bebop or the Sixties avant-

garde, this seems less than a thrilling prospect. To the new generation, half-drowning in a sea of cultural garbage, Marsalis's imperatives — technical mastery, respect for the ancestors, professional polish — are a revelation.

At the JVC/Capitol Radio Jazz Parade on Thursday, joined by the pianist Marcus Roberts, the bassist Bob Hurst and the drummer Jeff Watts, he introduced himself with the heavy-lidded, slow-medium blues called "J Mood", his tone polished to a purple richness. He took a cup mute to an oblique reading of "A

Foggy Day in London Town" and a Harmon mute to an unrecognizable "Cherokee", reproducing the buzzing-fly sound patented by Miles Davis.

The trumpet was open again for "Goodbye", a ravishing bel canto performance recalling Sinatra's great version of this imperishable Gordon Jenkins ballad. The Latin rhythms of "Caravan" put the spotlight on Watts's deceptively lazy snare-drum control, while a solo spot on a Monk tune allowed Roberts a full display of the unusual melodic angles. To a new generation, the level of intellect on display represents an example and a challenge: a core curriculum for the next few years of jazz.

Richard Williams

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هكذا من الأهل

BRIDGE

Winning treble

The three new bridge books on my desk this week could hardly be more different.

The Transfer Principle (Proby Press, £5.95) is by Brian Senior, who was born in England and recently settled in Northern Ireland.

I cannot pretend that *The Transfer Principle* will make light holiday reading for players who are new to the game, but it is well researched and has much to commend it for the serious student. Senior, obviously an aficionado of artificial systems, makes a strong case on their behalf, without, I suspect, converting those who prefer natural methods.

On Wednesday some considerable changes in the laws of Duplicate came into force. In *Bridge: The Law Changes* (Proby Press, 75p) Grattan Endicott simplifies and explains the effect.

This law will be welcomed by some performers I can think of. A player is not responsible for the actions of a spectator drawn to the table by his charm, good looks or reputation.

On a lighter plain, I can recommend *Doubled and Venerable* by Terence Reese and David Bird (Gollancz, £9.95). This is the third in the series devoted to the exploits of the monks of St Titus. The hands are good, and neatly constructed to compliment the personality of the characters.

In a match between the Monastery and the Novitiate, this hand illustrates Brother Lucius's skill and the Abbot's lack of generosity to his partners.

Teams: East-West game. Dealer South.

♠ A8643
♥ 872
♦ AK
♣ KQJ2
10953
J864
S
1087
872
10753
QJ4
AK9643
92

After an uninspired auction, the Novitiate North-South settled in six hearts. The Abbot, West, led the ♠K. Declarer won in dummy and cashed the Ace and Queen of hearts. Correctly he turned his attention to establishing his side suit. He played the ♠A. But when the ♠10 appeared it seemed prudent to continue with a low diamond. All would have been well for declarer if Brother Xavier, East, had taken dummy's ♠J with the ♠Q. When he ducked, Brother Xavier's fine defence elicited praise only from his opponents.

In the other room Brother Lucius was also in six hearts. The play to the first three tricks was identical, but when West played the ♠10 on the ♠A, Brother Lucius paused for thought before calling for dummy's ♠J. Then he crossed to dummy with a top club to finesse the ♠Q. West ruffed, but that was the only trick for the defence. Had West had the ♠Q, the finesse would at worst have cost an overtrick while assuring the contract.

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

British victory

Those following my daily news reports in *The Times* will know that Jon Speelman and Nigel Short have shared first prize in the inter-zonal tournament. So for the first time two British players have reached the candidate stage of the world championship—a remarkable feat. Speelman must feel particular pride since many had felt his style was insufficiently aggressive to notch the high percentage of victories required for qualification. Here is one typical game where he proved the pundits mistaken.

White: Prasad (Commonwealth Champion). Black: Speelman (British Champion). Subotica Inter-zonal, Sicilian Defence.

The opening resembles the dramatic Sicilian Defence in the 24th game of the 1985 Karpov-Kasparov match. Black has a solid central fortress and stands well on the Queen's wing. Meanwhile, White tries recklessly to blast a path through to the Black King.

A brilliant sacrifice to blunt the force of White's attack. If now 24 Bxe5 dxe5 25 Nf3 Nc5 ushering in a tremendous counterattack.

24 Kg8 Nc5 25 Kf4 Qd7 26 Rb1 Nc4 27 Bxe5 dxe5

White resigns.

Raymond Keene

● Thames TV and Channel 4 will soon be combining forces to stage another chess spectacular on television. This will be the British Speed Chess Championship, sponsored by the BIS Group, played at London's Park Lane Hotel over August 17-20 and scheduled for screening in the autumn.

The format will be sudden death knock-out and it will be one of the first events to feature both Nigel Short and Jon Speelman, after their sensational victory in the Subotica Interzonal.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1318

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, July 30. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, August 1.

ACROSS

1 Powerful (6)

4 Blurred double print (6)

7 Persuade (4)

8 Invent (8)

9 Low-grade theft (5,7)

15 At furthest limit (6)

16 Secret Govt. project (6)

17 Ages and ages (7,5)

23 Put up with (8)

24 Wood scraper (4)

25 Makes mud (6)

26 Refined, fastidious (6)

DOWN

1 Agreement (4)

2 Dealer (9)

3 Between (5)

4 Divine nourishment (5)

5 City-related (5)

6 Italian (5)

10 Offspring (5)

11 Lift (5)

12 Outing (9)

13 Tug (4)

14 College courtyard (4)

18 Egg-shaped (5)

19 Funeral bell (5)

20 Lake Isle of Innisfree poet (5)

21 Give up (5)

22 Quail flock (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 1312 (last Saturday's prize concise)

ACROSS: 1 Backer 4 Phrase 7 Nick 8 Nestling 9 Astro-technics 15 Evolve 16 Beacon 17 Robert Dudley 23 Smoothers

DOWN: 1 Bonn 2 Cockscorn 3 Rondo 4 Pasta 5 Relit 6 Sonic 10 Rover 11 Lizard 12 Inclement 13 Send 14 Weir 18 Ormer 19 Estol 20 Toems 21 Upset 22 Blur

Name

Address

REVIEW

The best and the worst of dear old Uncle Sam

BOOKS

Moronic Inferno and Other Visits to America, by Martin Amis (King Penguin, £3.50)

"No reader," writes Martin Amis "should be asked to witness an author's private grapplings with his thesaurus." It is a prescription which Amis has apparently learnt by heart. In this fine collection of journalism, Amis beats his outsize and ferociously contemporary thesaurus into perfect control: the writing seethes with energy, but it does the job it is told to do.

That job is America, and these articles and interviews catch that country in all its absurdity and all its abundance. It is a writer's analysis: Amis relishes what he most deplors in the States, and he spends much of his time not in America proper, but in the beleaguered buffer-state of his own grudging fascination.

President Reagan, for example, moves him "in the reluctant way you feel moved by bad art—like coming out of *Kramer versus Kramer* denouncing the film with tears drying on your cheeks." He feels that the novels of Philip Roth signify "a turbulent talent searching for a decorous way to explode."

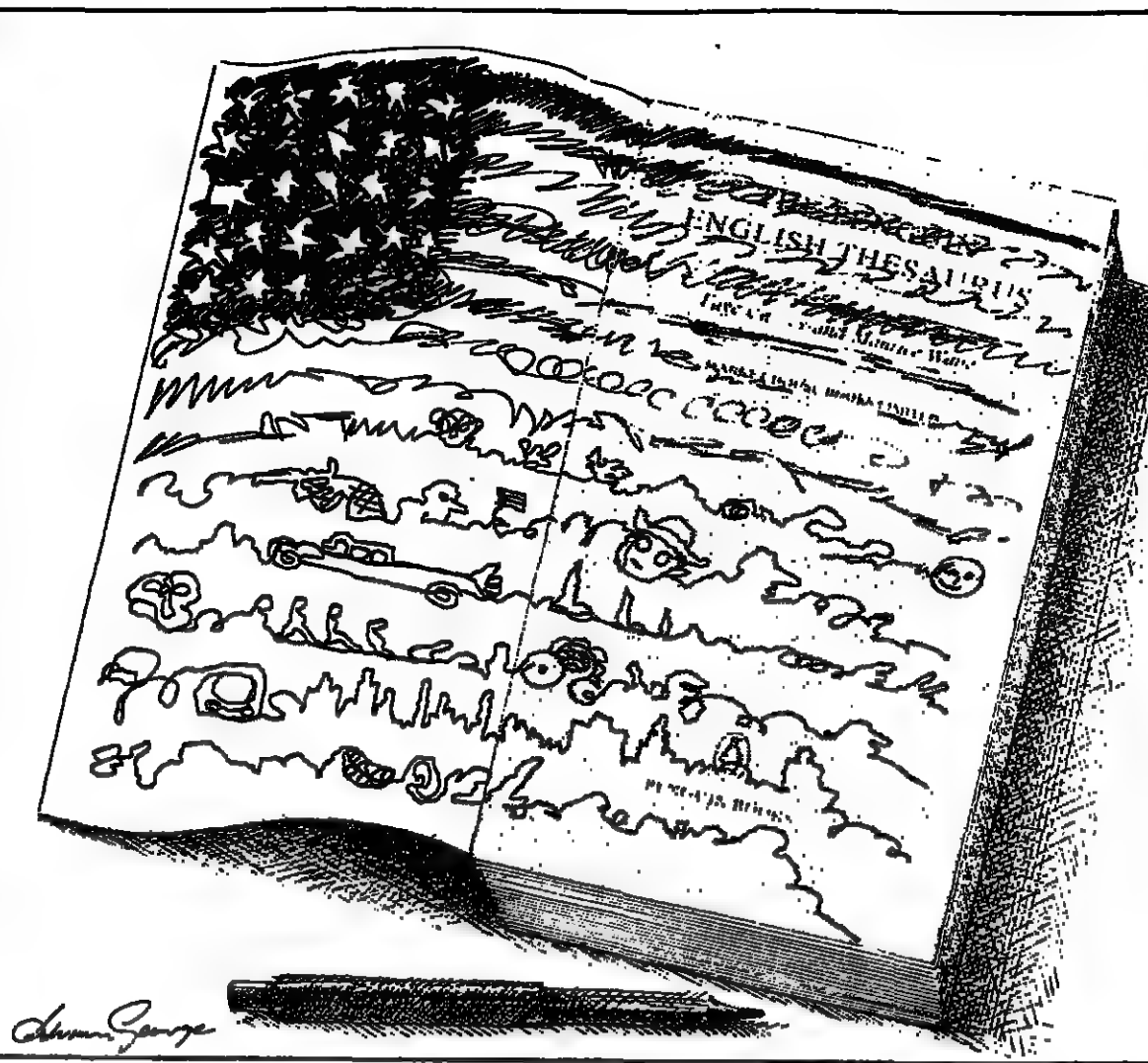
Amis's America is a land of grotesque polarities, ("a land where it is easier to Dial-A-Devotion than to buy a book") and if this writing has a failing, it is his tendency to pounce on these opposites as sensational symbols of the human condition (the "Moronic Inferno" of his title) rather than the tawdry failings of a specific culture and economy.

There are superb pieces on Elvis Presley, Steven Spielberg, Hugh Hefner, right-wing evangelism (the TV evangelist Jerry Falwell is described as "born in 1933; born again in 1956"), but Amis is happiest with American writers, and he interviews Norman Mailer, Truman Capote, Saul Bellow, and Gore Vidal with a happy mixture of rigour and humility. Clearly, he sees these men as not simply literary lions, but chunks of America itself. Truman Capote, spindly with illness but old madly courteous, is unable to complete the date as he signs a book for his interviewer.

for Martin I tried and you were so patient Truman Capote 198

Amis does not need to point the moral: lost in the bewilderment of his own history, disoriented and deathly, but still writing well at the time of interview, Capote is a symbol of America's historical amnesia, but also of its genius and its generosity.

James Wood



CRIME CLASSICS

Black Plumes, by Margery Allingham (Dent, £3.95); *A Killing Kindness*, by Reginald Hill (Grafton, £2.95); *The Incredible of Father Brown*, by G.K. Chesterton (Penguin, £2.95).

Black Plumes is that rare beast, an Allingham without her slightly soppy Scarlet Pimpernel, the very upper-crust Mr Campion. Dirty work in old-fashioned private art gallery. Reginald Hill is from the next generation of crime writers, more contemporary, less self-consciously elegant. In *A Killing Kindness* the Yorkshire Chequer is pursued by Hill's regular Watson and Holmes: Detective Superintendent Dalziel and Detective Inspector Pascoe. Father Brown is the loathsome little priest with a gift for solving impenetrable puzzles. He solves eight of them in his *Incredibility*, involving miracles, oracles, ghosts, down, and moans.

THE NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

A Dream of Wessex, by Christopher Priest (Abacus, £3.95) Julia works in an electronic think-tank at Maiden Castle, where past, present, and future get mixed up when a malevolent and violent ex-lover threatens her peace of mind.

Innocence, by Penelope Fitzgerald (Fleming, £3.50) Delicious and funny Anglo-Italian love story set in Florence, rural Tuscany, and London in the Fifties.

The Engineer, by Chuck Wachtel (Penguin, £3.50) Vivid and raw low life on the seamy side of New York City.

Later the Same Day, by Grace Paley (Penguin, £3.95) Brilliant little short stories that catch the humour and pain of living.

The Pastor's Wife, by Elizabeth von Arnim (Virago, £4.50) Classic 1914 story of English woman in East Prussia, witty about the old bondage of women as daughters and wives.

Charlotte Brontë, by Winifred Gair (Oxford, £6.95) Enthralling biography of the author who was like Jane Eyre in her long periods of loneliness and overwhelming desire to be loved; it adds pleasure to one of the best novels.

George Eliot, by Jennifer Uglow (Virago, £4.95) One of the excellent Virago Pioneer series, reassessing women from every walk of life whose talents shaped their world, and ours.

Rites, by Victor Segalen (Fleming, £3.50) Witty and warm memoir of a Guatemalan boyhood, in which Jewish family rites at home conflict with the crippling macho code of Latin America.

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THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

War and peace

Hollywood and Moscow are suddenly in love. After decades in which every American film about Russia had to be shot in Finland, if not the Burbank back lot, David Puttnam, head of Columbia, has clinched an agreement to shoot two movies in Russia next year.

Meanwhile, Menachem Golan, boss of Cannon, has also been in Moscow negotiating deals; a co-production of *Crime and Punishment* is one of several possibilities. This month also saw the first ever public screening in Russia of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, attended by 15,000 comrades.

Spark flies

Bodley Head may still be holding on to the services of Graham Greene, despite his rumblings of discontent, but it seems that Muriel Spark, another of its top authors, is about to change publishers. Spark has agreed terms to move to Constable, although contracts have not yet been exchanged. This represents a major coup for Robin Baird-Smith, Constable's editorial director, who wants to bolster his list with a big-name author.

During a private screening of footage for *The Trailer Show*, the series on movie promos starting on Channel 4 tonight, Philip Jenkinson, the presenter, and his friend John Loder (who specialized in playing jilted husbands in the Forties and Fifties) found themselves watching a trailer for *Reverie Madness*. Jenkinson rated its star, Lillian Miles, an actress of surpassing awfulness and said so at length. Loder let the outburst run its course before remarking: "Yes, we were awfully stupid some years. But she ran away with a dentist and went to live in Ohio."

Premium Bond

Timothy Dalton is to follow his critical and box office success as the new 007 by returning to the legitimate theatre in a West End revival of *A Touch of the Poet*. Eugene O'Neill's 1940 drama about



Redgrave and Roberts

inter-generational strife and an American melting pot will star Dalton, with Vanessa Redgrave and Jason Robards and open in the new year.

Oliver's twists

Two American video companies have announced plans for major screen tributes to Oliver North. Ted Turner Home Entertainment's package of fringe trial highlights will simply be called *Li-Colonel Oliver North - His Story*. MPI Home Video's 90-minute rendering of Oliver's story is titled *Oliver North: A Memoir to History* and will be on sale next week. Surely the obvious title must be: *This is Another Fine Mess You've Gotten Us Into, Ollie*.

Hilary Finch

Peter Freedman



Anger: a lack of cynicism

A measure of Mozart

Mozart/Streuss/Wolf Lieder: Auger/Gaga, CBS MT 42447 (CD MK 42447)

Liszt Orchestral Songs, Tokody/Takacs, etc./Hungarian State Orchestra, Hungarion SLPD 12105

For those who like their Mozart dithers with a little more body than Brittle and a little less cynicism than Ameling, this is the disc. Arleen Auger, whom the British public take to their heart whenever she gives a recital here, offers six songs, from the ubiquitous "Das Veilchen" to the rarer "Lied der Trennung", a dallish singspiel-type aria which she obstinately keeps alive by deft little observations of phrasing.

I like the way neither she nor Irwin Gage, her accompanist, rushes or belittles the opening of "Veilchen"; I enjoy, too, the manner in which Auger has just the measure of the sentimental, pre-Romantic longing of "Abendempfindung". She and Gage between them use it that some of the steam is taken off Strauss's

CLASSICAL RECORDS

"Morgen". Gage's Beethoven is transparently clear, and Auger tastes every word without salivating over one of them.

In Wolf's four Mignon songs, the relationship between voice and piano is as stimulating as in any available recording version.

Margaret Price, Hildegard Behrens and Brigitte Fassbaender have all, within the last year, shown us ways of looking at Franz Liszt. For a glimpse of Liszt Ferenc we have Dora Tokody, Klara and Tamara Takacs, Andras Molnar and Sándor Székely-Nagy. Between them, they tackle a variety of the later, orchestrated versions of the songs.

It takes, perhaps, the wild streak in Tokody's soprano to bring at last a real sense of isolation and panic to "Die Lorelei", and "Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher" takes on new force in the deep red wine of Tamara Takacs's mezzo.

Here, too, the orchestral version really does come into its own: it reminds us of this dramatic cantata's debt to Berlioz in its finely touched-in woodwind, its pulsing pizzicati, its distant trumpet calls.

The disappointment of this unique recording is the somewhat tame orchestral playing under Andras Korodi and the less than gripping characters of the two male singers. Molnar's tenor paints a frail watercolour "William Tell", and Solyom-Nagy's baritone, a real Bluebird of a voice, is only avascular in narrating the tale of the three gypsies.

No disappointment, though, in the new CD issue of Jessie Norman's *Brahms Lieder* (DG 413 311-2). The 1983 recordings stretch and expand in their new, close acoustic, and one wonders anew at the vocal and imaginative prowess which can have you absorbed in 70 full and uninterrupted minutes of Brahms.

Hilary Finch

Listen, Jack's coming back

JAZZ RECORDS

Curtis Counce Group Carl's Blues (Boplicity CON 040) Conte Candoli Fine and Dandy (Affinity AFF 173)

Later this year, British audiences will have the rare pleasure of a club tour by Jack Sheldon, the Florida-born trumpeter whose elegant solos can be heard on many West Coast jazz recordings of the 1950s. Sheldon later restricted his musical activities in favour of a career as an actor and comedian, but that is no excuse for his omission from both of two otherwise generally rewarding new reference books. *Jazz: The Essential Companion*, by Ian Carr, Digby Fairweather and Brian Priestley (Grafton, £17.95), and Barry McRae's *The Jazz Handbook* (Longman, £9.95), both published this month.

Sheldon's contributions to *Carl's Blues*, a welcome re-issue, show him to have been an unusually inventive musician. Melodically lucid, harmonically unbacked, rhythmically sure-footed, he found his inspiration in the examples of Clifford Brown and Miles Davis.

Richard Williams

The sounds of the master

ROCK RECORDS

The Jimi Hendrix Experience: Live At Winterland (Polydor 833 004-1)

In a recording career that lasted less than four years, Jimi Hendrix made an unrivalled contribution to the art of playing the electric guitar, but his live shows often reflected the erratic nature of his genius. While not going so far as to adopt the Miles Davis credo of regarding gigs as paid practice sessions, Hendrix nevertheless assumed lengthy passages of wholesale experimental jamming to be an essential part of his act, and there have been some spectacularly tedious live recordings released in his absence as a result.

Live At Winterland is a double album of performances taken from a three-night residency at the San Francisco concert hall in October 1968, which although not entirely free of such moments of listening duress, nevertheless underlines both the extraordinary range of Hendrix's vision and the restorative abilities of the new

digital re-mastering technology.

The high points are the astounding versions of "Manic Depression" and "Spanish Castle Magic", two songs that Hendrix was never much given to playing on stage, and neither of which has been released in a live format before. Both stick closely to the original arrangements while allowing Hendrix and Mitch Mitchell, charging round the drum kit in his free-flowing Elvin Jones style, to take ridiculous chances and come up with some phenomenally empathetic, free-form sequences during the instrumental breaks.

There have been better live releases of "Red House" (see *Hendrix In The West*) and the scruffy, aimless sequences of "Tax Free" and "Killing Floor" which fill large chunks of sides two and three, are strictly-speaking for archivists only.

At the end of the day this album makes a small but significant addition to the sum of a huge legacy.

David Sinclair

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10a.m. - 7p.m.

CHINA

THE WEEK AHEAD



OPERA

BRIEF GENIUS: Alexander Pushkin was killed in a duel before he reached 40. But no writer provided more sources for Russian opera and ballet. Three works by Leningrad's Kirov Opera on their first visit to Britain are based on Pushkin texts: Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades* and Eugene Onegin, plus Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*. Yuri Temirkanov conducts all performances. After Covent Garden the company moves on to Manchester and Birmingham. Royal Opera House (01-240 1066), from Tuesday.



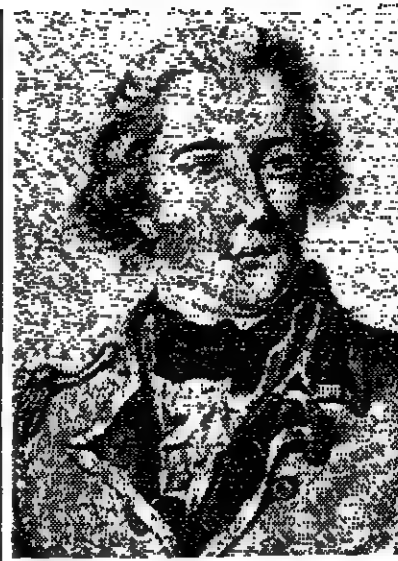
THEATRE

INN FIGHTER: Penelope Keith is back in her characteristic role of showing everyone who is boss in the Chichester Festival production of *Miranda*, loosely adapted by Beverley Cross from comedies by the 17th century Italian dramatist, Carlo Goldoni. Set in an English cathedral city in the 1950s, *Miranda* has Miss Keith as the owner of an inn, fighting off plans to re-develop the site. The director is Wendy Toye. Chichester Festival Theatre, Sussex (0243 781312), previews on Monday and Tuesday, opens Wednesday.



CONCERTS

PRIZE PIECE: Barry Douglas, the Belfast-born pianist, won last year's Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow at the age of 26. He plays one of the works which gained him the gold medal, Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1, at the Proms. The all-Russian programme also includes Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and is conducted by Gianluigi Gelmetti, artistic director of the Rome Opera and of the RAI Radiotelevisione Orchestra, who is making his Proms debut. Royal Albert Hall SW7 (01-589 8212), Thursday, 7.30pm.



BOOKS

PLAYING MARBLES: Lord Elgin removed the sculptures that were the symbol and glory of Periclean Athens from the Parthenon in 1801. They now lie out of the sun as one of the glories of the British Museum. In *The Elgin Marbles* (Chatto & Windus, £12.95, published Monday) Christopher Hitchens tells the adventure story of their removal, the intrigues of Lord Elgin, the various attempts to return the marbles, and details which both sides have tried to obscure. Hitchens argues forcefully the case for their return.



ROCK

OPENING NUMBER: Siouxsie and the Banshees make their only scheduled British appearance this year, "under canvas" on the closing night of the Capital Music Festival. This is the first chance to see the group's new, expanded line-up with guitarist Jon Klein and keyboardist Martin McCarrick joining Steve Severin (bass) and Budgie (drums). Other groups on the bill are The Fall, Wire, Psychic TV and Gays Bykers On Acid. Today from 2pm, The Supertent at Finsbury Park, London N4 (01-800 5589).



FILMS

SALES WAR: Richard Dreyfuss and Danny DeVito star as warring home-improvement salesmen in *Tin Men* (15) - a bright, inventive comedy by writer-director Barry Levinson that seems headed for a TV spin-off. As in Levinson's debut film, *Diner*, the lovingly observed setting is Baltimore, this time in the early 1960s. Barbara Hershey co-stars as DeVito's wife, caught in the crossfire between dapper, slick Dreyfuss and slovenly DeVito. Warner West End (01-439 0791), from Friday.

THEATRE

THE COLORED MUSEUM: Part of London International Festival of Theatre, Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival production, directed by L. Kenneth Richardson, of a sharply satirical view of life as a black in the USA. Direct from a nine-month New York run. Royal Court (01-730 1745), from Wed.

FIAT: Yugoslav company Red Pilot (formerly Theatre of Scipion) presents a production of *Scipion* (see above), being closed on the Edinburgh Fringe last year because the audience, heads poking through the stage floor, were deemed to be in danger, bring their latest show to London for the L.I.F.T. (see above), Riverside Studios (01-748 3354), Opens Tues. Until August 6.

THE UNOFFICIAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD: The People Show revive a 1981 favourite for this year's L.I.F.T. Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford, Middx (01-588 1176), Opens Fri. Until August 2.

THE WANDERING JEW: Mike Alford directs an adaptation of the epic 1844 novel by French writer Eugene Sue, written by Alford and Micheline Wandor. Cast of 17 play 50 roles in a five-hour performance. Lyttelton (01-828 2252), Previews Fri, August 1, 3-7, Opens August 8, in repertory.

OUT OF TOWN

CHICHESTER: *Miranda*: Penelope Keith in the premiere production of a comedy by Beverley Cross, after Goldoni, directed by Wendy Toye. Final show of the season. Chichester Festival Theatre (0243 781312), Preview Mon, Tues. Opens Wed. in repertory. Also: Studio Tent season commences with *The Fire Raisers*, by Max Frisch directed by Peter Wilson. Opens Thurs for four performances only.

COVENTRY: Coventry Mystery Plays: Adapted by Keith Miles and directed by Rob Bettinson, these medieval plays are performed every three years, in the ruins of the Old Cathedral, or in the new cathedral if it is raining. Bookings: 0203 553055. Opens Mon. Until August 15.

EDINBURGH: *Man to Man* (Jackie wie Hose): British premiere of Manfred Karge's one-woman show, translated by Anthony Vivas; a woman is forced to assume the persona of her dead husband, a crane operator. Traverse (031 226 2633), From Thurs.

LEICESTER: *Kip's War*: World premiere of a musical by Carl Davis and Harvey Green, about London children evacuated into the countryside in the Second World War. Robin Midgley directs a company which includes 160 local children. Haymarket (0533 539797), From Thurs. Press night August 6.

CONCERTS

SERPENTS GALORE: The London Serpent Trio and other exponents of this ancient wind instrument combine for arrangements of pieces by Haydn and Mozart, Schubert and Selber, for the European premiere of Proctor's *Amphibian Suite* and for Saint-Saens's *The Elephant* arranged for massed serpent band. St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061), Today, 7.30pm.

SYRENSONG: A BBC commission, Simon Holt's *Syrensong* has its world premiere from the BBC SO under Richard Buckley. Sibelius is represented by his Symphony No 2, and it should be well worth hearing Leslie Howard in Liszt's *Totentanz*. Albert Hall Mon, 7.30pm.

BAER, BARTONE: The celebrated Dresden-based baritone Olaf Baer sings Wolf Mikke Lieder and Brahms's Lieder Op 57. Geoffrey Parsons accompanies. Wigmore Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

BARN DANCING

Four Dance Episodes from Copland's *Rodeo* begin this Prom by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra under Bryden Thomas. Roger Smalley then solos in his own Piano Concerto and the end comes with Walton's Symphony No 1. Albert Hall, Tues, 7.30pm.

HARMONIEMESSE: The BBC Welsh Chorus, Symphony Orchestra and soloists join under Roger Norrington for Haydn's final large-scale work, the *Harmoniemesse*. First, however, Mozart's *Idomeneo* Ballet Music and John Ogdon in Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No 1. Albert Hall, Wed, 7.30pm.

REED/RPO: Michael Reed conducts the RPO in Glinka's *Russian and Lullaby Overture*. Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 2 (Joanna McGregor, soloist) and Dvorak's Symphony No 9 "New World". Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (01-628 8795, cc 01-638 8891), Fri, 7.45pm.

FILMS

OPERA DO MALANDRO (15): Exuberant Brazilian musical set among Rio's low-life in the early 1940s, and strongly reminiscent of *The Threepenny Opera*. Music by Chico Buarque; directed by Ruy Guerra, one of the country's leading film-makers. Premiere (01-636 0681), from Fri.

THE MAGIC TOYSHOP (15): Self-conscious and hermetic adaptation of Angela Carter's story about three children sent to live with their sinister uncle, a puppet maker. With Tom Bell, Caroline Milner; directed by David Wheatley. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443), Gate Notting Hill (01-221 0220), from Fri.

THE ARISTOCATS (U): Re-issue of the Disney Studio's 1943 cartoon about a feline family under threat from an avianous butler. An episodic story, but the voice characterizations (by Phil Harris, Hermoine Baddeley, Eva Gabor and others) are lively. Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527), Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310), from Fri.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WILLIAM CARRICK: Carrick (1827-1878) is hardly known in this country. But in Russia, where he was brought up, he is recognized as one of the founders of Russian photography. On show are series of tradesmen in St Petersburg and that of peasants in Mongolia in 1870. Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1 Queen's Street, Edinburgh (031 555 9921).

THE HUNGARIAN CONNECTION: Extraordinary exhibition, researched by Colin Ford, of early 20th century Hungarian photography, plus a glimpse of some of today's work. National Museum of Photography, Prince's View, Bradford, West Yorkshire (0274 727488), Until October.

ROCK

HEAD: Riotous musical assembly from the salacious Bristol band whose influences encompass punk, folk, Del Jam and beyond.

Tonight, International, Manchester (061 224 5050); Thurs, Venue, Edinburgh (031 557 3073); Fri, Roothops, Glasgow (041 332 5883).

U2: The European progress continues. Tonight with *The Pretenders*, *The Alarm* and *World Party*, Cardiff Arms Park (0222 390111); Wed and Thurs, SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000).

PAUL CROYDON: The singer from Croydon looks set to benefit from the post-D'Arby British soul environment. Tomorrow, Ronnie Scotts, London W1 (01-439 0747).

THE HOOODOO GURUS: An Australian pop/psychedelic export whose current single, "Good Times", features backing vocals by The Bangles. Tomorrow and Mon, Town & Country, London NW5 (01-267 3334); Wed (with U2) SECC, Glasgow (041 248 3000); Fri, International, Manchester (061 224 5050).

GALLERIES

FROM TWO WORLDS: A touring exhibition showing the responses of eight artists of African and West Indian descent to life in Britain. The Cirencester Workshops, Brewery Court, Cirencester (0285 61566), Mon-Sat 10-5.30pm, Free, until August 29. From today.

TONY CRAGG: Sculptures using recycled materials such as plastic, metal and wood by a British artist of international stature who lives in Germany. Cornerhouse, 70 Oxford Street, Manchester (061-228 7621), Free, until August 30. From today.

IN ANOTHER WORLD: A survey of Outsider Art, works by those eccentric part-timers and hobbyists some of whom make art which is far from naive or merely charming. Exhibition Gallery, 585 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes (0908 605538), Free, until August 30. From today.

LUCAS CRANACH (1472-1553): A closer, scholarly examination, in prints, photographs and drawings, of this German artist's painting of Adam and Eve. Courtauld Institute Galleries, Woburn Square, London WC1 (01-580 1015), Admission £1.50, until September 6. From Tuesday.

OPERA

GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL OPERA: A week of Ravel: tonight, Wed and Thurs at 8.30pm, Frank Corrado's delightful double-bill of *L'heure espagnole* and *L'enfant et les Sortilèges*, conducted by Simon Rattle. Glynedebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273-541111), Returns only.

BUXTON FESTIVAL: Tonight and Wed at 7.45pm in Buxton's exquisite opera house, the Spanish-tinged festival's double-bill of Rossini's *L'occasione fa il ladro* and Donizetti's *Il Pigmaleone*.

Malcolm Fraser directs and Anthony Huse conducts. On Thurs at 7.45pm, the festival's second opera, *Don Quixote* in *Sierra Morena*, an 18th-century rarity by Francesco Cesti from Cervantes's tragic-comedy. Opera House, Buxton, Derbyshire, (0298-71010).

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Kirov Ballet open their 11-day season with conductor Yuri Temirkanov's production of *The Queen of Spades*. First night on Tues at 7pm, with further performances on Wed and Thurs. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

FILMS ON TV

SWING TIME (1936): Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers and a raft of marvelous Jerome Kern numbers, including "Pick Yourself Up", "A Fine Romance" and "The Way You Look Tonight". BBC2, today, 9.05-10.45pm.



● Clark Gable and Constance Bennett enjoy a romantic clench in the 1935 comedy thriller *After Office Hours*. You might not believe it from the picture, but they play a newspaper editor and his wealthy socialite reporter who become involved in solving a murder and at the same time fall in love. The sharp and witty screenplay was the work of Herman J. Mankiewicz, who later wrote *Citizen Kane*. Channel 4, Tues, 2.25-3.45pm.

THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD (1951): Intelligent and suspenseful science fiction story in which American scientists at the North Pole are surrounded by a monstrous alien. BBC2, Tues, 9-10.25pm.

THE FRESHMAN (1925): Harold Lloyd in one of his happiest vehicles as the dim college boy who wants to be popular and accidentally becomes a football star. BBC2, Thurs, 4.25-5.30pm.

JAZZ

STANLEY JORDAN/MICHAEL BRECKER: The young guitar wizard Jordan shares the last JVC/Capitol Radio Jazz Parade concert with a new band led by the versatile saxophonist Brecker.

Tonight, Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800).

GARY BURTON/BRANFORD MARSALIS: Vibist Burton's quintet and saxophonist Marsalis's quartet make a top-quality double-bill for the Cambridge Jazz Festival.

Tonight, Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357851).

RUBY BRAFF: Braff's cornet, unmatched in lyrical beauty, meets Scott Hamilton's tenor saxophone in a mainstream quintet. Tonight to Fri, Pizza Express, 10 Dean Street, London W1 (01-438 8722).

ARCHIE SHEPP: The angry young saxophonist of the middle Sixties nowadays opts for calmer waters. Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-439 0747).

RADIO

A PATRIOT FOR MRS BLYTHE: Frances Tomelty plays a beautiful Dubliner trying to adjust to the death of her father and desertion by her husband in a psychological drama by Alan Barrie. Radio 4, Mon, 8.15-9.45pm.

IN THE PSYCHIATRIST'S CHAIR: Dr Anthony Clare returns with another series of interviews which aim for

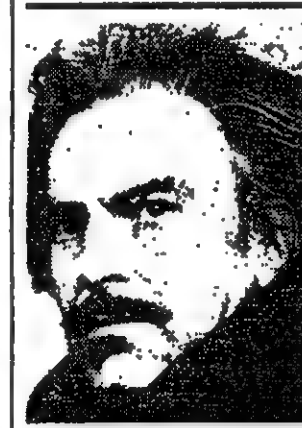
intimacy without prurience. His first subject is the mezzo-soprano, Dame Janet Baker. Radio 4, Wed, 9.05-9.40pm.

FILM STAR: Alexander Walker's superb dissection of screen idols continues with a look at Dirk Bogarde, who matured from romantic lead into one of Britain's finest cinema actors. Radio 4, Wed, 12.25pm.

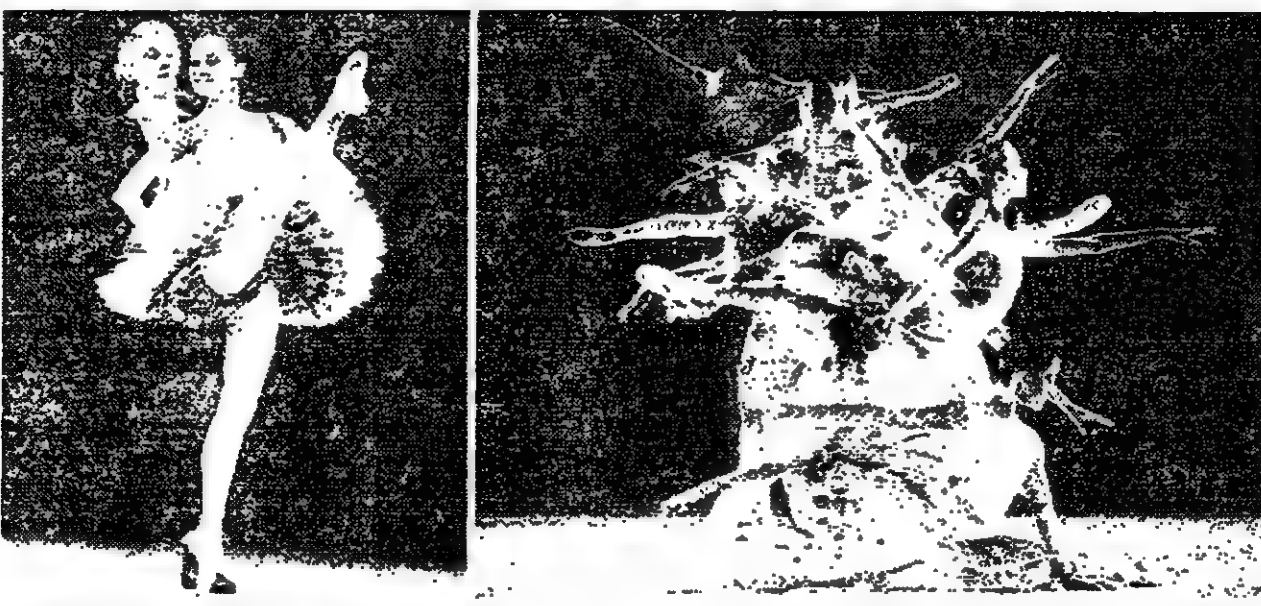
TELEVISION

SON OF MAN: Repeat of Dennis Potter's controversial 1983 interpretation of Jesus of Nazareth, who is played by the late Colin Blakely. With Robert Hardy (Pilate) and Brian Blessed (Peter). BBC1, Tues, 9.30-11pm.

REASONABLE FORCE: Documentary by David Jones which examines six cases of serious complaints about the police and raises issues of alleged police brutality and harassment. ITV, Tues, 10.30-midnight.



● Maximilian Schell (above) in the title role of the American mini-series, *Peter the Great*. Partly filmed in the Soviet Union, and using Red Army soldiers as extras in the battle scenes, the four-part epic boasts a supporting cast of Laurence Olivier, Vanessa Redgrave, Trevor Howard, Omar Sharif and Ursula Andress. Peter as a boy is played by a Surrey schoolboy, Graham McGrath. BBC1, tomorrow, 7.15-8.15pm.



Ballet bonanza: the Bolshoi's Galina Stepanyenko and Alexander Mozhukhin and a scene from a Royal Ballet performance

A cornucopia of dance

Four dance companies compete for attention and audiences in London this week. The Royal Ballet is back in the Big Top at Battersea Park for one week only; a chance to see them at prices well below Covent Garden's. The programmes are easy to enjoy, with Ashton's romantic comedy *La Fille mal gardée*, Monday to Thursday, Friday and August 1 bring a new work by Ashley Page, flanked by two crowd pullers, *The Dream* by Ashton and *Elite Synchronisms* by MacMillan.

London Festival Ballet, opening a three-week season on the South Bank, counter with *Coppelia*, Rudolf Nureyev partners Lucia Truglia. Tuesday to Thursday: with Mireille Bourgeois and Martin James, an attractive couple, on Friday.

Meanwhile, Merce Cunningham continues at Sadler's Wells until August 1. The dancers are good: John Cage is in charge of the music; but the chief attraction is Cunningham's highly individual choreography, and each programme includes one or more works new to London.

At the Coliseum, it is the dancers who are the main draw: young hopefuls who are at, or recently from, the Bolshoi

Ballet school in Moscow. They also run until August 1 with programmes of extracts from popular ballets and a selection of shorter display pieces.

This is merely the busiest single week in what is for dance lovers a very congested couple of months. July has already seen the National Ballet of Canada and London Contemporary Dance Theatre clashing for their short London seasons, and London Festival Ballet at the Coliseum had to compress as wide a selection as possible from its growing repertory into just two weeks.

Things get only slightly easier during August. Ballet Rambert follows the Royal Ballet into the Big Top, with programmes including new works by Lynn Seymour (based on Mozart's life and music) and Richard Alston. They clash with two more weeks by London Festival Ballet at the Festival Hall, including a revival of Frederick Ashton's eloquently poetic version of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Then a company from Brazil, known as Cise Negro, Portuguese for "Black Swan," arrives at the Festival Hall for a week, August 19 to 25, with Yoko Morishita and Fernando Bujones as guest stars. Nureyev and Ballet Theatre

Francais also arrive in town (August 24-29 at the Palladium) with their programme in homage to the memory of Diaghilev and Nijinsky.

Then after nine weeks full of dance activity, there is not a single performance by any major dance company announced in London for more than six weeks, leaving the whole of September and half of October empty until the Royal Ballet re-opens at Covent Garden.

Would-be spectators who find themselves frustrated, by lack of time or money, from seeing as much as they would like of the competing productions during July and August, should vent their anger not at the companies concerned but at the lack of a big theatre in London available for dance all the year round. That, and not bad planning, is why so much is crowded into the brief period when the Coliseum and Festival Hall are vacant.

John Percival

The Big Top: Battersea Park (Advanced booking at Covent Garden 01-240-1066). Royal Festival Hall (01-928-3191). Sadler's Wells (01-278-8916). Coliseum (01-836-3161). Palladium (01-437-7373).

LILY MY LOVE: Play by Elisabeth Bond exploring the friendship between a teenage girl (Cindy Holden) and a 35-year-old vagrant (Bill Paterson) as they run away to the Lake District. BBC2, Wed, 9.25-10.10pm.

WALKS

TODAY

OLD SHOREDITCH: The East End furniture trade. A short introductory talk followed by a walk in the local area surrounding the Gettys Museum. Meet Gettys Museum (Kingsland Road, London E2), 2-4pm, free.

THE LONDON OF DICKENS AND SHAKESPEARE: A lunchtime pub-walk. Meet Tower Hill tube, 11am, £2.50.

TOMORROW ARISTOCRATIC LONDON: Meet Green Park tube, 2pm, £2.50.

LONDON'S GHOSTS, ALLEYS AND ODDITIES: Meet Embankment tube, 2.30pm, £2.50.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

BRITISH-SCHUBERT FESTIVAL: Booking for programme of concerts, film and discussion, including song recital with Adrian Thompson and Roger Vignoles, and discussion of *Winterreise* with Stuart Bedford, Desmond Shawe-Taylor, and Marion Thompson. Events at St Paul's, Matinees, Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall, and local churches. Aug 13-16.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 WALES: 5.15-5.30pm: *South Wales News*. 5.30-5.45pm: *South Wales News*. 5.45-6.00pm: *South Wales News*. 6.00-6.15pm: *South Wales News*. 6.15-6.30pm: *South Wales News*. 6.30-6.45pm: *South Wales News*. 6.45-7.00pm: *South Wales News*. 7.00-7.15pm: *South Wales News*. 7.15-7.30pm: *South Wales News*. 7.30-7.45pm: *South Wales News*. 7.45-8.00pm: *South Wales News*. 8.00-8.15pm: *South Wales News*. 8.15-8.30pm: *South Wales News*. 8.30-8.45pm: *South Wales News*. 8.45-9.00pm: *South Wales News*. 9.00-9.15pm: *South Wales News*. 9.15-9.30pm: *South Wales News*. 9.30-9.45pm: *South Wales News*. 9.45-10.00pm: *South Wales News*. 10.00-10.15pm: *South Wales News*. 10.15-10.30pm: *South Wales News*. 10.30-10.45pm: *South Wales News*. 10.45-11.00pm: *South Wales News*. 11.00-11.15pm: *South Wales News*. 11.15-11.30pm: *South Wales News*. 11.30-11.45pm: *South Wales News*. 11.45-12.00pm: *South Wales News*. 12.00-12.15pm: *South Wales News*. 12.15-12.30pm: *South Wales News*. 12.30-12.45pm: *South Wales News*. 12.45-1.00pm: *South Wales News*. 1.00-1.15pm: *South Wales News*. 1.15-1.30pm: *South Wales News*. 1.30-1.45pm: *South Wales News*. 1.45-2.00pm: *South Wales News*. 2.00-2.15pm: *South Wales News*. 2.15-2.30pm: *South Wales News*. 2.30-2.45pm: *South Wales News*. 2.45-3.00pm: *South Wales News*. 3.00-3.15pm: *South Wales News*. 3.15-3.30pm: *South Wales News*. 3.30-3.45pm: *South Wales News*. 3.45-4.00pm: *South Wales News*. 4.00-4.15pm: *South Wales News*. 4.15-4.30pm: *South Wales News*. 4.30-4.45pm: *South Wales News*. 4.45-5.00pm: *South Wales News*. 5.00-5.15pm: *South Wales News*. 5.15-5.30pm: *South Wales News*. 5.30-5.45pm: *South Wales News*. 5.45-6.00pm: *South Wales News*. 6.00-6.15pm: *South Wales News*. 6.15-6.30pm: *South Wales News*. 6.30-6.45pm: *South Wales News*. 6.45-7.00pm: *South Wales News*. 7.00-7.15pm: *South Wales News*. 7.15-7.30pm: *South Wales News*. 7.30-7.45pm: *South Wales News*. 7.45-8.00pm: *South Wales News*. 8.00-8.15pm: *South Wales News*. 8.15-8.30pm: *South Wales News*. 8.30-8.45pm: *South Wales News*. 8.45-9.00pm: *South Wales News*. 9.00-9.15pm: *South Wales News*. 9.15-9.30pm: *South Wales News*. 9.30-9.45pm: *South Wales News*. 9.45-10.00pm: *South Wales News*. 10.00-10.15pm: *South Wales News*. 10.15-10.30pm: *South Wales News*. 10.30-10.45pm: *South Wales News*. 10.45-11.00pm: *South Wales News*. 11.00-11.15pm: *South Wales News*. 11.15-11.30pm: *South Wales News*. 11.30-11.45pm: *South Wales News*. 11.45-12.00pm: *South Wales News*. 12.00-12.15pm: *South Wales News*. 12.15-12.30pm: *South Wales News*. 12.30-12.45pm: *South Wales News*. 12.45-1.00pm: *South Wales News*. 1.00-1.15pm: *South Wales News*. 1.15-1.30pm: *South Wales News*. 1.30-1.45pm: *South Wales News*. 1.45-2.00pm: *South Wales News*. 2.00-2.15pm: *South Wales News*. 2.15-2.30pm: *South Wales News*. 2.30-2.45pm: *South Wales News*. 2.45-3.00pm: *South Wales News*. 3.00-3.15pm: *South Wales News*. 3.15-3.30pm: *South Wales News*. 3.30-3.45pm: *South Wales News*. 3.45-4.00pm: *South Wales News*. 4.00-4.15pm: *South Wales News*. 4.15-4.30pm: *South Wales News*. 4.30-4.45pm: *South Wales News*. 4.45-5.00pm: *South Wales News*. 5.00-5.15pm: *South Wales News*. 5.15-5.30pm: *South Wales News*. 5.30-5.45pm: *South Wales News*. 5.45-6.00pm: *South Wales News*. 6.00-6.15pm: *South Wales News*. 6.15-6.30pm: *South Wales News*. 6.30-6.45pm: *South Wales News*. 6.45-7.00pm: *South Wales News*. 7.00-7.15pm: *South Wales News*. 7.15-7.30pm: *South Wales News*. 7.30-7.45pm: *South Wales News*. 7.45-8.00pm: *South Wales News*. 8.00-8.15pm: *South Wales News*. 8.15-8.30pm: *South Wales News*. 8.30-8.45pm: *South Wales News*. 8.45-9.00pm: *South Wales News*. 9.00-9.15pm: *South Wales News*. 9.15-9.30pm: *South Wales News*. 9.30-9.45pm: *South Wales News*. 9.45-10.00pm: *South Wales News*. 10.00-10.15pm: *South Wales News*. 10.15-10.30pm: *South Wales News*. 10.30-10.45pm: *South Wales News*. 10.45-11.00pm: *South Wales News*. 11.00-11.15pm: *South Wales News*. 11.15-11.30pm: *South Wales News*. 11.30-11.45pm: *South Wales News*. 11.45-12.00pm: *South Wales News*. 12.0

SATURDAY

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

SUNDAY

● The new series featuring the Welsh tenor Dennis O'Neill (BBC2, 8.25pm) seems perfectly pitched for those who find the thought of Ronnie Corbett and Sacha Distel in *Seaside Special* (BBC1, 10.00pm) but would equally recoil at three unloved hours of opera. Dennis O'Neill, small, dark, and for an opera singer, decidedly before a huge and clapping audience at the St David's Hall, Cardiff. The repertoire is overwhelmingly mainstream: the *Toradora* chases from *Carmen*, "Maria" from *West Side Story* and Mario Lanza's "Because". Anne Williams, King, a soprano described by

CHOICE

Dennis as "certainly a star of the future", comes on in a low-cut, dress to render "One Fine Day" from *Madame Butterfly*. If by now the viewer thinks the only popular operatic piece missing is the drinking song from *La Traviata*, that is the next item. Dennis signs off with "Nessun Dorma" from *Turandot*, thanks, anyone for helping him and hopes we have enjoyed it as much as they have. Viewers who zap over to BBC1 will probably find Ronnie Corbett saying exactly the same thing on *Seaside Special*.

Peter Waymark



The tenor Dennis O'Neill whose first television series, named after him, begins on BBC2 tonight (8.25pm)



Fascist salutes from Londoners of all ages during the early years of Mussolini (Channel 4, 8.15pm)

CHOICE

● *Dangerous Characters* (Channel 4, 8.15pm) is a two-part study of the Italian immigrant community in Britain up to the end of the Second World War. In the 19th century, they might have been characters but they were hardly dangerous. Coming to Britain in search of work, many unable to read or write, they settled in the Clerkenwell area of London, spreading to Soho, and they sold ice-cream, sharpened knives and became chefs and waiters. After the First World War, reflecting events in the mother country, the community split into those who supported Musso-

lini and the Fascists and those who set up in opposition. The Blackshirts were active in Britain three years before Mussolini came to power. And it was from London that many of the plots to assassinate Mussolini were hatched — a hub of anti-Fascist activity being the King Bomba delicatessen in Soho. When Mussolini declared war on Britain in 1940, Italians living here became regarded as "dangerous characters", and regardless of political stance, were interned. The two programmes (the second is on Wednesday) throw fascinating light on a little known aspect of our recent history.

P.W.

BBC1

- 6.45 Open University.
6.50 The Family News (r).
6.55 Downton and the Three Musketeers (r).
7.00 The Wickedest at Castle. 10.55 Weather.
10.55 Grandstand. Introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 11.00, 2.05, 3.25, 4.40, 5.05, 6.25, 7.45, 8.10, 9.30, 10.55, 11.55. 11.00 News. 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 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Credibility of America has been restored says Shultz

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr George Shultz, in a clear attempt to restore confidence at home and abroad, brushed aside all questions about his resigning yesterday in the light of his extraordinary testimony to the Iran-Contra hearing and said the damage to US credibility had been remedied.

The Secretary of State also insisted that he could not have stopped the Iran initiative by acting more forcefully or done anything more in December 1985 to persuade President Reagan to abandon it.

"I don't think there are any more arguments I could have thought of," he told the congressional investigating committee. He did not take his resignation to the brink, he said, "because I do not like threats".

Asked whether he now felt comfortable remaining in the Cabinet after the humiliations of the Iran-Contra affair, he asked, amid laughter: "Are you a psychiatrist or something?" Mr Shultz insisted, however, that US foreign policy was not now in disarray, and had not been fatally damaged.

By and large, he said, it had gone forward with widespread support within the Administration and with Congress. "It's been a very strong, coherent set of policies," he said. Policies were debated within the Administration, and it would be alarming if they were not.

He admitted that relations with the Arab world and policy on terrorism "had a rough spot", but said this had been overcome. The US had

stood by its responsibilities in the Gulf. People could see that. America had not backed off.

Mr Shultz went out of his way yesterday to praise the new "sensational" team in the White House, including Mr Frank Carlucci, the National Security Adviser, and Mr Howard Baker, the Chief of Staff.

He turned aside questions about the late Mr William Casey, the former CIA director whom he identified on Thursday as his main opponent in the "battle royal" over arms sales to Iran. He denied that Mr Reagan relied excessively on Mr Casey, saying the President relied on himself. He was "a very decisive person".

The contrast between Mr Shultz's testimony yesterday with his searing indictments on Thursday was marked. Senators made much of the feuding he had described. But he was at pains to underline the new team spirit, and the Administration's unity over the President's major foreign policy objectives, including those on arms control, the Middle East and support for the Contras in Nicaragua.

Mr Shultz strongly differentiated between the Iran-Contra crisis and Watergate. He said a cover-up was "the essence of the Watergate problem". In the current case, Mr Reagan had set in motion a very quick investigation as he began to sense that something was wrong.

Washington view, page 5

Maxwell closes the Daily News

Continued from page 1

Group, owners of LBN's main rival, *The London Evening Standard*, re-launched the defunct *London Evening News* at 15 pence per copy. Mr Maxwell branded it "a temporary phenomenon" and a "cheapo" newspaper - and promptly cut his own cover price of 20 pence by half to 10p, saying newsreaders could keep it all.

There followed accusations by Mr Maxwell that the *News* and *Standard* circulation men were intimidating news vendors into selling only their papers and he took out a writ, later withdrawn, accusing the *News* of trying to sabotage the launch of LBN.

The *Standard* retaliated with a writ of its own and forced Mr Maxwell to apologise publicly over his allegations that the owners were lying about their circulation figures.

A month after the launch, Mr Maxwell announced that his newspaper would print on

Saturdays - and that the price was going back to 20 pence. News of the closure came as a complete surprise to the paper's 400 staff who were called to the Rotunda - a centre in the Daily Mirror building - by Mr Maxwell at 12.15 yesterday lunchtime.

But last night, the paper's editor, Mr Magnus Linklater, said he had asked journalists to hang on before accepting outside offers.

He said he had offered Mr Maxwell his resignation two weeks ago but it had been refused. Mr Linklater added: "There's an enormous amount to be done and there are plans which have to remain secret for the moment".

LBN journalists were speculating that this "hint" might mean there was to be another launch of a new paper.

Leaders of the two print unions - Sogat and the NGA - said the closure had come as a complete surprise.

Last hope for one of the rarest birds



Proud father and fledgling. The red-backed shrike, once a familiar sight in Britain, is now on the point of extinction. But a pair have hatched three or four young in Tedford Forest on the Norfolk/Suffolk border this summer. The eggs were laid in June and the

young are expected to leave their Hawthorn bush before next month. About the size of a sparrow, the shrike is known as the butcher bird, because it impales insect prey on thorns. Other dietary favourites include dragonflies, grasshoppers, lizards and small snakes.

The male bird is light grey with a bluish head and a pink breast colouration. His female counterpart has a russet brown head and back. The population of 250 pairs in 1960 was reduced to less than 25 in 1980. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Zeebrugge disaster ferry company 'sloppiness' claim

Continued from page 1

of bulkheads to increase the stability of ferries, and said the possibility of introducing a licensing system for ferry operators should be considered. It endorsed the installation of indicators lights to show that bow and stern doors had been closed, and also the use of closed circuit television to monitor vehicle decks.

Legal advisers for both Capt Lewry and Mr Sabel later said they would be considering appeals against the suspension of their certificates. Mr Eric Nevill, general secretary of the merchant officers' union Numast, said the two were being made scapegoats for errors committed by the whole community.

"Management has been severely criticized but nothing has happened to them. The man who left the doors open: nothing has happened to him. If it is not possible to punish all the other people involved, these two people should not have been chosen," he said.

Survivors and relatives of those who died aboard the *Herald* yesterday reacted angrily to the news that no action was to be taken against Townsend Thoresen. It is almost as if the company's role is being swept under a legal carpet, said one woman survivor.

Mr Alan Reynolds, whose student son died in the disaster and who has been campaigning for action against Townsend Thoresen, said last night: "I am amazed there has not been any prosecution against the company. They seem to be getting off scot free."

Mr Leslie Blanchard, son of

Mrs Irene Blanchard, aged 49, who lost her husband Norman, aged 49, daughter Sharon, aged 28, and grand daughter Rebecca, aged four weeks, said from his home in Hullbridge, Essex: "The captain should never be allowed to sail again. He should be refused permission to appeal."

"He should not have sailed using the procedures laid down by Townsend. But then if he didn't sail, he would have lost his job. The company are more to blame because they are the ones who sort out the safety procedures."

The Townsend Thoresen chairman, Mr Peter Ford, said: "The judge has made some tough and pungent comments about the management of the company and individuals involved. You have to remember this was a terrible tragedy involving the deaths of 193 people (a figure which includes five bodies still missing) including 38 of our own employees. Therefore it is quite right that what he says should be tough, to the point and critical of everything he found wrong."

Mr Ford said a full reply to the inquiry's criticism would be produced later.

Mr Mark Stanley, the assistant boatswain, said later that he would "always carry the guilt" of the disaster.

Last night Capt Lewry and Mr Sabel issued a statement on the inquiry findings through their solicitor, Mr Martin Sutton, saying: "We are relieved that the inquiry is over and that we can now make public our feelings of deep grief and sorrow for the loss of life of so many passengers and fellow seamen."

Channon acts to strengthen safety

Continued from page 1

port is to provide an extra £1 million to fund research into improved designs.

The stability of older ferries is to be checked against new standards introduced in 1980. The inquiry recommended that ferries failing to meet those standards be phased out.

Mr Channon is to hold urgent consultations with port authorities and the ferry companies, beginning next week.

He wants ferries fitted with draught gauges, load indicators and tougher windows.

Though the *Herald of Free Enterprise* was not carrying more than the permitted number of passengers, he wants the companies to adopt a boarding card system to ensure limits cannot be exceeded.

The *Herald* was overloaded in terms of weight, Mr Channon will be seeking greater use of weightbridges. He will also examine problems caused when a dockside is so designed it makes it impossible to close loading doors until a vessel has set sail.

No effort would be spared to ensure a disaster like

Zeebrugge would never happen again, he said.

Mr Channon stressed that it was the court, not he, which had decided that Townsend Thoresen had committed no statutory offence, and said the law should be changed. He also emphasised that Townsend Thoresen was now under new management, but he was repeatedly accused of hiding behind the law.

Mr Peter Soper, a Labour frontbench transport spokesman, described the *Herald* as "a latter-day Titanic wrecked on the iceberg of Department of Transport indifference, managerial incompetence and working methods designed apparently only to shorten turn-around times regardless of risk".

The suspensions of the crew members were "deplorable".

However a number of senior Conservatives also demanded action against Townsend Thoresen.

Mr John Wheeler, MP for Westminster North, said justice had to be seen to be done and urged Mr Channon to present the evidence of the inquiry to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Passenger killed in aircraft hijacking

Continued from page 1

bers overpowered the man as police commandos rushed aboard. Three other passengers were injured.

A Swiss Government spokesman, Mr Achille Casanova, said that the gunman's demands included the release of Hamadei, who has been the focal point of protracted diplomatic contacts between Bonn and Washington. He was arrested at Frankfurt in January and faces murder charges in connection with the hijacking of a TWA jet in 1985 in which a US Navy diver died. The 22-year-old suspect's elder brother, Mr

Abbas Ali Hamadei, was also arrested in Germany and is held on other charges.

Two West German businessmen who disappeared in Beirut are believed to be hostages held by sympathizers of one or both of the Hamadei brothers. Mr Robert Duerksen, head of the Swiss Crisis Unit which was set up during yesterday's hijacking, said that the gunman told a security officer that his action was linked to "a problem with his brother held in West Germany". There was no evidence that the gunman belonged to the Hamadei family.

The man has produced an identity card in the name of Hussein Ali Mohammad Hariri, but it was not immediately confirmed that this was his identity.

Sources in Beirut said that Hariri was a Southern Lebanese Shia Muslim. The five-hour drama began when the Air Afrique plane, a DC10 with 148 passengers and 15 crew on board, was on the final Rome-Paris leg of a flight with several stops which began in Brazzaville. The gunman was thought to have boarded at Bangui. Firing two shots, he forced his way into the cockpit soon after take-off

from Rome and demanded to be taken to Beirut or Saudi Arabia.

"He was very excited and said he had a score to settle with France," the pilot, Captain Edouard Artuzzi, said later.

GENEVA: President Mitterrand expressed his gratitude yesterday to the Swiss authorities for ending the hijack, while France's Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, praised President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast, where Air Afrique is based, for ordering the crew not to take off again from Geneva (AFP reports).

ACROSS

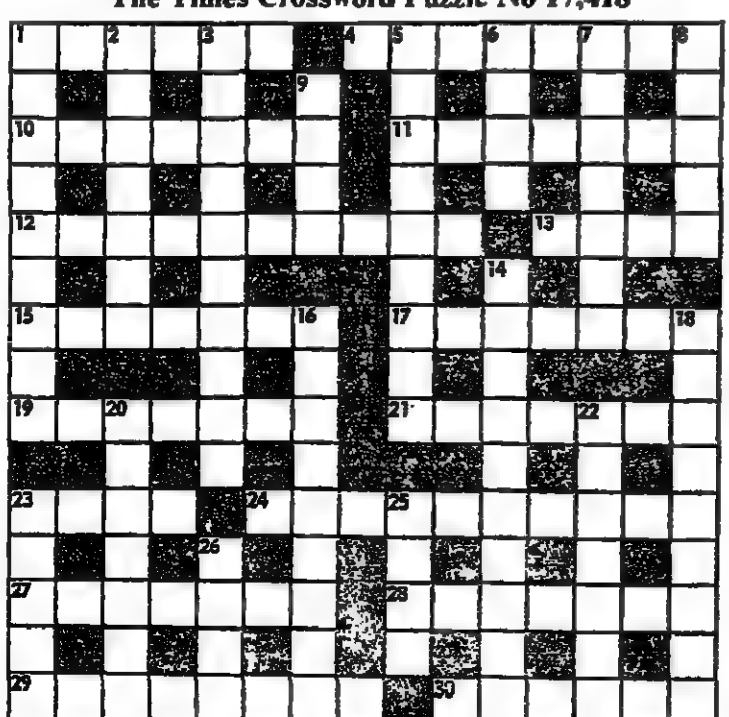
- Lad in quiet state (6).
- Cancel verbally and immediately (5,3).
- Guys keep it up and make a point (7).
- Against going into the water with money (7).
- Course given one star outside the province (4,6).
- The bard intends to... (4).
- ... suffer ruin without work (7).
- Recasts (in different role) Theophrastus (7).
- Passage out of a pamphlet (7).
- Promote most of the team without a shirt between them (7).
- She takes a dual carriageway (4).
- Wife not liking drink indulged in liquor, a small one (6,3).
- Cheat to get double 7 (3,4).
- Boy and girl - one is Asian (7).
- Put one's foot down before the start of every rush (8).
- Gipsy cheerfully shows spirit (10).

DOWN

- Spur me on - I could be genuine (5,4).
- Came and 'grassed a number inside (7).
- As a rider, I request an alteration (10).
- Bring about the overthrow of military man in popular country (9).
- 'Yank in good condition (4).
- Former ace has to eject upside-down (3,4).
- It's calamitous when soldiers fall into the river (5).
- Emperor has a letter from Greece from Sir Arthur Wing (4).
- They might be an erk short (5,5).
- You'll find them inside continuously improving (2,3,4).
- How long would things keep moving if she fell? (5,4).
- Chap put up a high ball - a bit of a gamble (7).
- The language in which I'm put up to enter a club (7).
- I'll get left behind when scholar takes this subject (5).
- What grows underground? Not entirely underground (4).
- Floppy disc - I'm into that (4).

Concise Crossword, page 21

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,418



Solution to Puzzle No 17,412

ACROSS
1. LAD IN QUIET STATE (6)
2. CANCEL VERBALLY AND IMMEDIATELY (5,3)
3. GUYS KEEP IT UP AND MAKE A POINT (7)
4. AGAINST GOING INTO THE WATER WITH MONEY (7)
5. COURSE GIVEN ONE STAR OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE (4,6)
6. THE BARD INTENDS TO... (4)
7. ... SUFFER RUIN WITHOUT WORK (7)
8. RECASTS (IN DIFFERENT ROLE) THEOPHRASTUS (7)
9. PASSAGE OUT OF A PAMPHLET (7)
10. PROMOTE MOST OF THE TEAM WITHOUT A SHIRT BETWEEN THEM (7)
11. SHE TAKES A DUAL CARRIAGEWAY (4)
12. WIFE NOT LIKING DRINK INDULGED IN LIQUOR, A SMALL ONE (6,3)
13. CHEAT TO GET DOUBLE 7 (3,4)
14. BOY AND GIRL - ONE IS ASIAN (7)
15. PUT ONE'S FOOT DOWN BEFORE THE START OF EVERY RUSH (8)
16. GIPSY CHEERFULLY SHOWS SPIRIT (10)

DOWN
1. SPUR ME ON - I COULD BE GENUINE (5,4)
2. CAME AND 'GRASSED A NUMBER INSIDE (7)
3. AS A RIDER, I REQUEST AN ALTERATION (10)
4. BRING ABOUT THE OVERTHROW OF MILITARY MAN IN POPULAR COUNTRY (9)
5. 'YANK IN GOOD CONDITION (4)
6. FORMER ACE HAS TO EJECT UPSIDE-DOWN (3,4)
7. IT'S CALAMITOUS WHEN SOLDIERS FALL INTO THE RIVER (5)
8. EMPEROR HAS A LETTER FROM GREECE FROM SIR ARTHUR WING (4)
9. THEY MIGHT BE AN ERK SHORT (5,5)
10. YOU'LL FIND THEM INSIDE CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING (2,3,4)
11. HOW LONG WOULD THINGS KEEP MOVING IF SHE FELL? (5,4)
12. CHAP PUT UP A HIGH BALL - A BIT OF A GAMBLE (7)
13. THE LANGUAGE IN WHICH I'M PUT UP TO ENTER A CLUB (7)
14. I'LL GET LEFT BEHIND WHEN SCHOLAR TAKES THIS SUBJECT (5)
15. WHAT GROWS UNDERGROUND? NOT ENTIRELY UNDERGROUND (4)
16. FLOPPY DISC - I'M INTO THAT (4)

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: D B MacDonald, Birchdown, Hardenhurst Lane, Chippenham; M S Malthouse, 159 Bilton Lane, Heathway; R J Armstrong, 51 Boatville Gardens, Barksdale, Ilford; J Holligan, 30 Charles Cres, Lennie, Glasgow; A L Kinsella, 27 Parkway, Pound Hill, W Sussex.

Name _____
Address _____

WEATHER Much of the country, apart from northern Scotland, will be dry and quite sunny with temperatures around normal for late July. It will be windy in the north of Scotland and frequent showers there will spread south. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Eastern areas will start dry and bright, but cloud and rain in the west will spread to all areas.

ABROAD			
MIDDAY: C: cloud; d: drizzle; f: fog; h: fog; r: rain; s: sun; sh: snow; l: thunder.			
Algeria	26	34	34
Alexandria	26	34	34
Athens	26	34	34
Bombay	26	34	34
Buenos Aires	26	34	34
Calcutta	26	34	34
Cairo	26	34	34
Colon	26	34	34
Hong Kong	26	34	34
London	26	34	34
Madras	26	34	34
Manila	26	34	34
Mumbai	26	34	34
Nairobi	26	34	34
Rangoon	26	34	34
Shanghai	26	34	34
Singapore	26	34	34
Tokyo	26	34	34
Yokohama	26	34	34

AROUND BRITAIN			
London	26	34	34
Edinburgh	26	34	34
Glasgow	26	34	34
Manchester	26	34	34
Birmingham	26	34	34
Cardiff	26	34	34
Belfast	26	34	34
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Coventry	26	34	34
Southampton	26	34	34
Exeter	26	34	34
Plymouth	26	34	34

AM

PM

LIGHTING-UP TIME

Today: 5.30 pm to 4.45 am
 Tomorrow: 5.30 pm to 4.45 am
 Wednesday: 5.30 pm to 4.45 am
 Thursday: 5.30 pm to 4.45 am
 Friday: 5.30 pm to 4.45 am
 Saturday: 5.30 pm to 4.45 am
 Sunday: 5.30 pm to 4.45 am

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp max 8 am to 6 pm: 21°C (70°F)
 min 6 pm to 8 am: 14°C (57°F)
 8 am to 10 am: 16°C (61°F)
 10 am to 12 pm: 18°C (64°F)
 12 pm to 2 pm: 20°C (68°F)
 2 pm to 4 pm: 21°C (70°F)
 4 pm to 6 pm: 21°C (70°F)
 6 pm to 8 pm: 21°C (70°F)
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Druggie disease
happy company
happiness' claim

mannon acts
lengthen safe

SATURDAY JULY 25 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1845.0 (+8.9)
FT-SE 100
2346.9 (+6.7)

Bargains
58815 (49687)

USM (Datastream)
214.36 (+0.57)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6070 (+0.0035)
W German mark
2.9770 (+0.0025)
Trade-weighted
72.7 (same)

Phoenix
Properties
bid agreed

Phoenix Properties & Finance yesterday made a £40 million agreed takeover bid for Rohan, the Irish property investment group.

Phoenix is offering 20 of its own shares, which were suspended at 22.3p, for 20 Rohan. This values them at 317p. There is a cash alternative of 270p.

Rohan, which has a 17-acre business park at Langley, Slough, Berkshire, estimates that pretax profits were not less than £1.1 million on turnover of £8 million in the latest six months.

The combined group will be worth between £75 million and £80 million.

Japan rates

Japan's long-term banks are to raise their prime rates from 4.9 to 5.2 per cent on Monday. The increases by the Industrial Bank of Japan, the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan and Nippon Credit Bank follow a rise in bond yields. The Tokyo market yesterday recorded a record rise in share prices. The Nikkei-Dow Jones index rose 906.42 points to 23,942.94.

Gilts auction

The Bank of England is to hold its second experimental auction for gilt-edged securities, involving up to £1 billion of long-dated stock, in September. A third auction, for medium-dated stock, is likely next January.

Laidlaw leaps

Buoyant business in the new car market helped Laidlaw Group, the Edinburgh Ford dealer, to nearly treble interim pretax profits to £1.13 million. The half-way dividend is up from 1.2p to 1.6p.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2477.52 (+5.58)
Tokyo	Nikkei Dow	23942.94 (+906.42)
Hong Kong		3543.60 (+23.22)
Amsterdam	Gen	316.9 (+0.6)
Sydney	AO	1988.0 (+12.7)
Frankfurt		1935.0 (+7.4)
Brussels		5156.1 (+41.8)
Paris	CAC	414.0 (+9.5)
Zurich	SIX	562.30 (+2.30)
London	FT-A	n/a
FT-Gilts		66.35 (+0.06)
Recent issues		Page 26
Closing prices		Page 25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RSE:		
MS International	119p (+11p)	
Heater Slatkley	588p (+15p)	
Unitech	304p (+10p)	
Spur Pet	249p (+15p)	
Yorkshire TV	335p (+11p)	
Chapman Inds	380p (+20p)	
J Parkins	138p (+47p)	
Mountleigh	308p (+15p)	
Creata	211p (+6p)	
SON	389p (+22p)	
FALLS:		
Victor Prods	155p (-35p)	
T Cowie	970p (-20p)	
Steel	1462p (-12p)	
Consolidated Gold	1276p (-22p)	
Northern Foods	298p (-16p)	
Coleroll	354p (-13p)	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	9%
3-month Interbank	9.4-9.5%
3-month eligible bills	8.5%-8.9%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	8%
3-month Treasury Bills	5.72-5.70%
30-year bonds	9.9%-9.9%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$	\$1.6070
£/DM	DM1.5545
£/FF	FF1.5370
£/Yen	Yen148.90
£/Sfr	Sfr1.710
£/Lira	Lira103.7
£/Ecu	Ecu2.067754

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$453.50 pm \$453.50	
disc \$453.00-453.50 (\$281.75-282.2)	
New York:	
Comex \$453.90-454.40	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) pm \$19.35/bbl (\$19.50)	
1. Domestic lowest trading price	
Best Summary 26	Comment 27
Stock Market 26	Times 27
Wall Street 26	Unit Trusts 28
Money Markets 26	Commodities 28
Foreign Exch 26	ISM Prices 28
Traded Opt 26	Share Prices 29

Bank increases cover for Third World debts by £1 billion

Lloyds reports £697m loss

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank surprised the financial markets yesterday by announcing a larger than expected bad debt provision of £1 billion, leaving it with a £697 million pretax loss for the first half of this year. The provision is the largest made by a British bank at one time.

The one-off provision related to £4.3 billion of Third World debt, a higher exposure than most City analysts believed Lloyds had on its books. Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, said that the bad debt cover concerned loans to 28 countries and took the bank's specific provisions to above 30 per cent.

The exceptional provision was taken above the line and was offset directly against profits, according to normal accounting practice, Sir Jeremy said. "We are able to make provisions without shaking our momentum or changing our business strategy," he added.

Sir Jeremy said that Lloyds was in a weaker position to launch takeover bids because of the erosion of the bank's capital from provisioning. But bank officials dismissed reports that Lloyds was interested in bidding for Morgan Grenfell and they suggested

that it had lost interest in renewing its bid for Standard Chartered Bank which was defeated over a year ago.

He said that the move reflected the deteriorating outlook for world trade and economic growth which had created increasing difficulties for Third World borrowers. The moratorium on repayments by Brazil, where Lloyds has loans worth £1.2 billion, was particularly serious and the bank has so far foregone £35 million in unpaid interest.

The large provision resulted in a loss per share of 64p compared with earnings of

Comment

27p at the same time last year. In spite of the loss, Lloyds is increasing its interim dividend payment from 4.17p to 4.60p because of its previously strong capital position.

The provisioning move, however, means a sharp drop in Lloyds' capital ratios. From an equity to asset ratio of 5.8 per cent, the highest of the clearing banks, its ratio falls to 4.4 per cent which is lower than the other banks. Sir Jeremy said that the bank had no intention of boosting its capital with a rights issue.

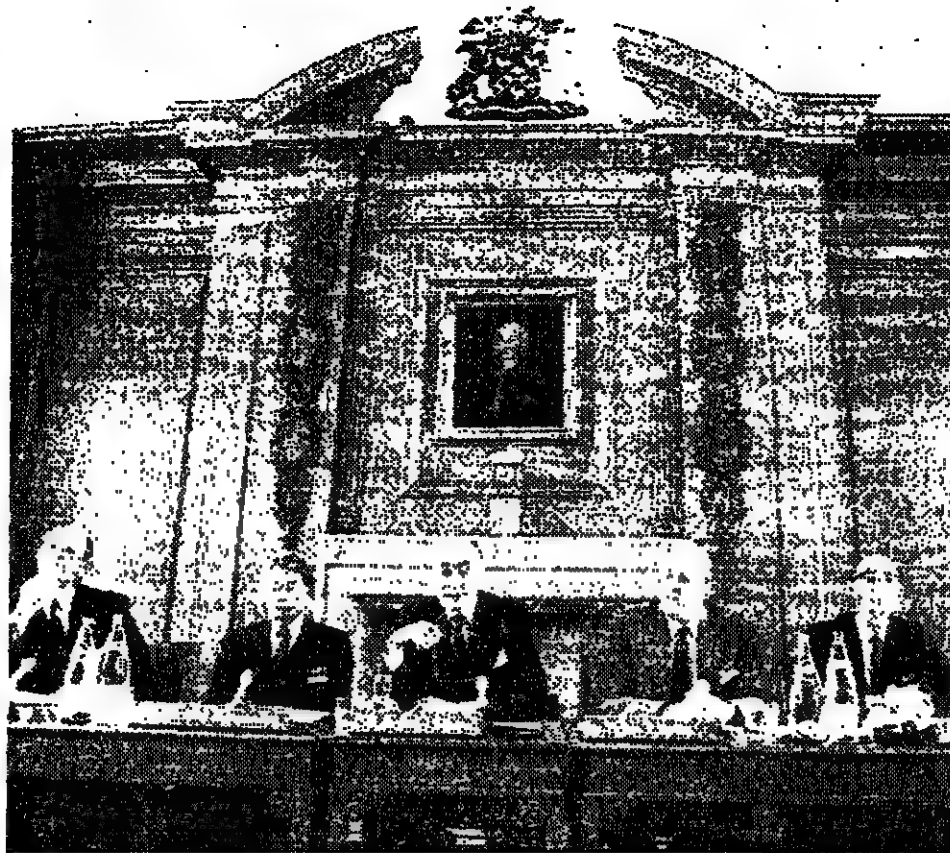
"Our continuing business is going well and will enable us to rebuild our capital ratios through retentions," he added.

He said that without the provision Lloyds would have produced a 6 per cent increase in profits from £214 million last year, after a strong performance from domestic British banking. British retail banking post-tax profits surged by 39 per cent to £164 million as interest and fee income rose.

Profits from deposit accounts were helped by an increase in the amount of money held in non-interest bearing accounts. Domestic lending was up 16 per cent while mortgage lending jumped by 30 per cent over the six month period. Lloyds' consumer finance and insurance also performed well.

Following the bank's withdrawal from gilt-edged and Eurobond market making, Lloyds announced a £32 million pretax loss for its merchant banking arm.

Because the exceptional provision related to overseas loans, international banking operations showed a loss after tax of £701 million compared with a profit of £47 million a year ago.



Making provision: Sir Jeremy Morse (centre) with other Lloyds directors yesterday

US economy rises by 'sluggish' 2.6%

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US economy grew at an annual rate of 2.6 per cent during the second quarter, in line with market expectations but down sharply from growth of 4.4 per cent in the first quarter.

Economists said the figures reflected a sluggish economy during the April-June quarter despite some bright spots. Exports, after a period of no growth, are once again increasing in response to the lower dollar but the gains have been partially offset by domestic weaknesses.

Banks, reflecting massive loan-loss provisions, reported record losses during the second quarter. The 14 largest banks, each with assets of more than \$30 billion (£18.7 billion), reported an aggregate net loss of \$11.5 billion during the second quarter.

The unprecedented losses reflected provisions of \$13.9 billion to cover possible losses from Third World loans.

In addition, US regulators yesterday reported the failure of the Bank of Los Gatos in California. It was the 102nd US bank to fail this year.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, was

optimistic about the latest economic figures, saying they showed the Reagan Administration's forecast of 3.2 per cent growth in 1987 was possible. He gave warning, however, that protectionist legislation under consideration by Congress could alter significantly the improving trade performance of US companies.

In response to the rate of export growth, Mr Baldrige said the record \$167 billion trade deficit could be reduced by between \$20 billion and \$30 billion in real terms.

A healthy trade performance is essential to the Reagan Administration's hopes for economic growth. In the first time, to export-drive gains.

Commerce Department officials said yesterday the main reason for the slowdown in second-quarter growth was a reduction in the build-up of stocks.

The Department earlier reported that orders for durable goods last month rose by 1.4 per cent but that almost all the growth was caused by bookings for military goods.

Volcker warning, page 27

Panel twist in battle for Hogg

By Colin Campbell

The Takeover Panel provided a late and unusual twist in the battle for Hogg Robinson last night. It said it could not give a formal ruling whether the TSB Group or Dewey Warren Holdings would be allowed to make bids for the separate parts of the group assuming Monday's demerger plans are approved.

A ruling was sought after an approach to the panel by Lazard Brothers and by brokers on behalf of institutions. They wanted to know if the TSB would be free to bid for just the part it really wants.

But the panel's answer, which makes it uncertain if the TSB will be there with a fresh bid on Tuesday, now throws into balance Monday's vote by Hogg Robinson shareholders on whether or not to demerge.

It is a condition of TSB's 600p cash bid that shareholders reject Monday's demerger proposals.

Hogg Robinson's share price has risen well above TSB's 600p cash bid, with yesterday's stock market price closing at 633p.

Temps, page 27

Shipbuilders' trading loss rises to £148m

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

British Shipbuilders made a trading loss of £148 million for 1986-87, bringing accumulated losses at the state-owned corporation over the last five years to £465 million.

The results, announced yesterday by the new BS chairman, Mr John Lister, indicate the continuing impact on Britain's merchant shipbuilding industry of the severely depressed world market and the low prices for new ships. BS said that for most classes of ships, prices are at the same level as in 1978.

Mr Lister said that, despite the continuing losses, there were no plans for further reductions in the workforce which now totals 6,500. He has begun a new drive, based on "pro-active marketing" to win a larger number of the scarce orders for ships and is hoping that Govan Shipbuilders on the Clyde will re-enter the market for large cruise liners.

Although a significant rise in world markets is not expected before 1991, BS now has work to keep its yards busy for the next 18 months. It is building 36 vessels, includ-

ing 24 roll-on-roll off ferries ordered by Danish owners, totalling 264,000 compensated gross tonnes and worth £311 million.

Total trading losses for BS last year were nearly £170 million against £143 million the previous year and were reduced to £148 million by a £20.8 million injection from the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund.

Under European Commission rules, community ship-

builders can receive a subsidy of up to 28 per cent of turnover to help to bridge the gap with Far East prices although, Mr Lister said, this remained "a very severe target" for BS.

The corporation's total loss for 1987, taking into account restructuring costs and provision for lower fixed asset values, was £222.5 million and the group's accumulated net losses now stand at £1.5 billion.

Still hanging over BS is a possible court action over the oil drilling rig Ocean Alliance

being built by the privatized Scott Lithgow yard on the Lower Clyde and now 3½ years late in delivery to the customer, Britoil.

Trafalgar House, which bought Scott Lithgow for £12 million in March 1984, has told BS it intends to make "a substantial claim for misrepresentation relating to the state of this contract".

A spokesman for Trafalgar House admitted that the company had still not made a final decision on whether to sue BS and declined any further comment. At the time of the sale, BS allowed Trafalgar House experts full access to the yard and to examine the work that had been done on the rig. Mr Lister says in his report that the corporation considers that "no liability will arise."

For its part, Britoil says it still wants the £88 million rig now due to be delivered in November. The final cost to Scott Lithgow, however, could be as high as £200 million.

Other disputes between BS and Trafalgar House over the Scott Lithgow sale were settled last year, with BS agreeing to pay another £20 million.

Saving of £1bn on public spending

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

Spending by government departments was more than £1 billion below target in the financial year to April 30, according to official figures.

The substantial undershoot, which emerged from Treasury and Central Statistical Office estimates, helps explain the very low figure of only £3.3 billion for the public sector borrowing requirement last year.

The latest estimate for the 1986-87 public spending out-turn contained in the July issue of the Central Statistical Office publication, *Financial Statistics*, is for a planning total of £139.6 billion.

This is £800 million below the £140.4 billion target which the Chancellor set in his autumn statement last year. However, the true undershoot in spending is even greater. The Treasury set a target of £4.75 billion for privatization proceeds in 1986-87.

The amount actually received from asset sales was less than this - £4.4 billion. Privatization proceeds count as negative public expenditure and so the difference, of £330 million, should have been reflected in an addition of this amount to the original spending target of £140.4 billion.

Since spending was £800 million under target in spite of the missed privatization target, the true shortfall in spending by departments was about £1.15 billion.

The undershoot is confirmed by detailed Treasury figures for the results of cash-limited public spending last year. They show that the provisional outturn for voted cash limits was £58,730 million, £904 million below the final cash limits allowed for the year.

Non-voted cash limits, at £7,684 million, were £113 million below the final cash limits allowed for the year, while running cost limits, £13,071 million, undershot by £100 million.

Only the external financing limits of the nationalized industries, at £1,182 million, broke above target.

There is no clear evidence yet, on whether a public spending undershoot is likely this year, although the Treasury is keen to meet the £148.6 billion.

On Thursday, the Cabinet agreed that general government spending next year should be the equivalent of 41.75 per cent of gross domestic product. But it was recognized that this could lead to some slippage in the £154.2 billion planning total for 1988-89.

How Bob Beckman made millions from preaching doom

Still going up on the downwave

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Bob Beckman, the flamboyant harbinger of doom who broadcasts daily on LBC, London's all-news radio station, is no stranger to controversy. Almost five years ago, his book *The Downwave* prophesied a property crash and advised against buying houses. Then he wrote: "By 1987 there will be no real residential housing market in Britain for the owner occupier. Some houses will be unsaleable at any price."

Now millionaire Mr Beckman, who lives in a - rented - penthouse apartment in the Barbican, in the City of London, is having a little difficulty with the supposedly devoted followers of his particular brand of investment advice.

Over the past nine months they have withdrawn almost £10 million from his Beckman International Capital Accumulator Unit Trust at a time when the rest of the unit trust industry is booming.

Since the beginning of the year BICAT, which takes its advice from Mr Beckman, has been the worst performing of the 119 unit trusts in its sector. It is down by 5.6 per cent over one year.

The administration of the trust is carried out by Bishopsgate Progressive Management. They have served notice to quit on Mr Beckman, who has until December 8 to find a replacement.

Mr Beckman is rewarded for his role as investment adviser to the trust by getting the annual 1½ per cent management charge plus the 2 per cent difference between buying and selling prices.

Over the past nine months of indifferent performance, Mr Beckman's company Investors Bulletin was paid £558,000 inclusive of VAT for advising the trust. For the year from September 1985 to 1986, it was paid £726,000 including VAT.

Mr Beckman maintains that payment to his company is not the same as paying him personally. "There are expenses involved in running a company," he says.

His first reaction when asked about the level of his remuneration was to point out that his true reward for advising BICAT was his salary paid by the



Bob Beckman: 'I am not crying poor'

company. According to the 1985 accounts of Investors Bulletin this was £60,000.

However, Mr Beckman subsequently conceded that "consultancy fees" of £143,419 in the Investors Bulletin accounts and a £250,000 pension contribution were also his.

"I am not crying poor," Mr Beckman said.

"You probably won't believe this but it is the absolute truth. I am not managing the trust to make a lot of money. I am doing this as a service to my clients."

Mr Beckman also pointed out that he has another £28 million under management for private clients and said that this accounts for perhaps another £100,000 of fees which he says are paid into Investors Bulletin. "With my unit trust, the unit-holders pay less than the average for the industry."

This refers to the 2 per cent initial charge on his unit trust which is not generally sold through financial intermediaries. The industry norm is 5 per cent.

Mr Beckman does however levy an annual 1½ per cent charge, which is above average for the industry.

On a three year view BICAT is the tenth worst performing of all unit trusts according to the latest published Money Management figures. £1000 invested in BICAT three years ago would now be worth £876.

Mr Beckman has also excited controversy for his pessimistic views on the state of the property market. In *The Downwave*, his book prophesying another great depression he wrote: "By 1987 there will be no real residential housing market in Britain for the owner occupier. Some houses will be unsaleable at any price."

"Perhaps I was foolhardy in putting a date on it," Mr Beckman says. "I wrote that four years ago. I am an investment analyst, an economist and academic. I was looking at underlying trends." His general thesis of doom and gloom in the property market is still correct, he says.

"I got the timing wrong. The timing is always imprecise," he said yesterday.

Mr Beckman does however appear to be on the verge of making a lot of money out of property himself. His Barbican flat which he moved into two years ago is up for sale at £920,000. He is a council tenant but is exercising his right to buy the penthouse flat on three floors and then selling it on immediately.

He sees no inconsistency in this. To start with he says that the asking price for the flat includes furniture, works of art and personal belongings worth £250,000. He also says that he is moving out of the Barbican for entirely personal reasons and that any profit he does make is an unintended by-product.

"I am not doing a property deal. I did not engage in a property development scheme," he says.

Mr Beckman whose appearance belies his 53 years, has been a licensed dealer in securities for the past 30 years. He says that he will apply for authorization under new financial services laws. If such authorization is not granted, he will be unable to continue in business when the Financial Services Act comes into force next year.

GO FOR CAPITAL GROWTH IN SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA WITH WARDLEY!



See page 36

WALL STREET
Low up 6 points
on GNP figure

Capital & Counties makes £182 million rights issue

By Cliff Feltman

Capital & Counties, the property group, is raising £182 million from shareholders to help pay for the development of three large shopping centres around London.

The move will also dilute the holding of the South African-controlled Transatlantic Insurance group whose stake will be cut from 93 per cent to 67 per cent.

Capital & Counties is sweetening the cash call with a forecast that profits for the current year will be not less than £14 million, an increase of 16 per cent.

Capital & Counties is preparing to start work on three massive shopping centre schemes fringing the M25 - 700,000 sq ft at Watford, Hertfordshire; 400,000 sq ft at Bromley, Kent; and 1,500,000 sq ft at Thurrock, Essex, for which it is awaiting planning approval.

The projects will cost more than £300 million over the next three to four years. Other developments in hand or in prospect will need a further £75 million.

Transatlantic - which is ultimately controlled by Mr

Donald Gordon's Liberty Life group of South Africa - is allowing its stake to be reduced, which will also help to widen the shareholder base and increase the marketability of the shares.

At the same time, Capital & Counties reported interim pretax profits of £6.56 million, up 8.1 per cent. A first-time contribution from the full ownership of Westamerica Properties shows further growth in income. There is an interim dividend of 3.5p, up from 3p last time. Total dividends for the full year are

forecast at 8p a share, up 14.3 per cent.

Helped by a rising property market, the company now estimates net assets of £358p a share, up from 322p last December. In the stock market the shares were 5p lower at 415p.

The rights issue will raise £182 million by offering a mixture of ordinary and convertible preference shares.

The terms are a unit of one new ordinary share and four preference shares valued at 28.10p for holders of four existing ordinary shares.

M&G action holds up Brierley

By Michael Tate

The odds against Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn's £95 million takeover bid for Molins succeeding lengthened yesterday as the Molins share price remained stubbornly above the bid valuation.

The market price, at 303p, is 10p above the value of the T&KM share swap terms and 3p higher than the cash option.

Once again, the outcome of a contested takeover bid seems to have been influenced by M&G Investment Management. M&G snapped up 375,000 Molins shares on Thursday at 303p, lifting its holding to 15.92 per cent, and declared its desire to keep Molins independent.

M&G has a tradition of backing incumbent managements, on the theory that the more companies there are, the more choice the investor has. A spokesman said: "We happen to think that T&KM's bid is not over-generous, but that is a secondary issue."

"We think existing managements should be given the opportunity to reap the rewards of their efforts."

T&KM, which is owned by Mr Ron Brierley, the New Zealand magnate, lifted its offer for Molins earlier this week, saying it was final. The company has said it would provide the means for the group's expansion into related fields.

The Brierley camp already owns 26.85 per cent and has indicated that it will continue buying up to 300p.

M&G, however, appears determined to keep the share price out of reach. Mr Reg Heath, T&KM chief executive, will spend the next fortnight attempting to persuade shareholders of the advantages of his bid, but he will have his work cut out while disgruntled investors can more than match his offer in the market.

COMMENT

Lucky Lloyds takes its losses on the chin

Both Lloyds Bank and the stock market must be thanking their lucky stars for Robert Holmes & Court and the white squires who blocked Lloyds' bid for Standard Chartered Bank. Investors were mildly surprised at the size of Lloyds' reported Third World exposure, but the possibility that it might by now have had Standard's £3 billion exposure as well hardly bears thinking about. The Standard bid was a bid well lost.

Even so, Lloyds' brave provisioning move takes it to the bottom of the class in capital ratios. It also puts a damper on any bid prospects Lloyds may have been harbouring - if there were any. The suggestion that it was seriously interested in buying Morgan Grenfell had an air of unreality about it from the start and Standard no longer looks like a sensible proposition.

Significantly, Lloyds had the guts to take the £1 billion hit above the line, making Midland's accounting procedures look even more wayward and feeble. One big difference between Lloyds and Midland, however, is the former's profitability. Assuming a steady rate of earnings and no more big provisioning exercises, Lloyds should be able to rebuild its ratios to their previous levels in a couple of years simply through retentions.

That is why the stock market, which rightly has great confidence in Sir Jeremy Morse's management team, reacted calmly and the shares closed

virtually unchanged at 410p. In the meantime, though, the bank is in a somewhat weak position and its determination to avoid rights issues and asset sales could easily bend if there are further pressures on Third World debt.

What precisely those pressures might be is impossible to say. It is conceivable that, by this time next year, 25 per cent to 30 per cent specific provisions against Third World debt will no longer be considered sufficient. It is also possible that the debt position will deteriorate further - much hangs on finding a solution to Brazil's repayment moratorium.

What is clear, though, is that at least three of the clearing banks are coming through the present round of blood-letting without irreparable damage. National Westminster has already revealed its £466 million provisioning and its equity-to-asset ratio will come top of the league. Barclays will announce its provisions next week - the last of the big four to do so - and they are likely to be similar to NatWest's.

There is no doubt that all the banks could do with more capital but as long as earnings, particularly from domestic operations, continue to flow through strongly, the Bank of England is not going to panic. A question-mark must still hang over Midland, though, because even after its rights issue and disposals, its ratios are only slightly better than Lloyds while its underlying business does not look nearly as healthy.

Lister relaunches the hulk

John Lister, the veteran streetfighter of ICI Fibres' recovery, was simply told to cut costs to the taxpayer and prepare for privatization when he took the helm at British Shipbuilders shortly before the election. It was some brief. The depth of long-running problems at BS was merely underlined by yesterday's accounts. There were bigger losses from an even lower turnover (down 60 per cent to £106 million) and the smallest-ever workforce.

The first move towards privatization was writing off the entire working assets of the corporation. But this is really no more than a dramatic acceptance that there is little chance of those assets earning a return for the foreseeable future. Orders, though improved, will not fill the few remaining yards, mainly in Sunderland and the Clyde. And it is a moot point whether the taxpayer is better off making losses on orders, both through BS and direct government subsidies, or through keeping men and overheads idle (at an estimated cost of £39 million last time).

The sad state of BS reflects past weakness applied to 25 per cent remaining overcapacity in world shipping, the consequent dearth of orders and similar excess capacity in the world shipbuilding industry.

In the meantime, losses remain unacceptably high. To some extent, government policy has come home to roost. The assumption that selling the warship yards and drastically slimming the remaining merchant capacity would reduce the problem to manageable proportions was false.

Full closure, apparently still rejected by the Government, is no longer an impossible option, for BS is not now synonymous with the British merchant shipbuilding industry. Several of the privatized warship yards were basically all-purpose units that moved into naval work because that was the best market. The separate Harland & Wolff has large capacity.

BS is now acting as a small force and moving determinedly into specialized business with new designs for refrigerated carriers, research vessels and a move into cruise ships and ferries. But the precedent of the move into naval building is a warning. That market is now oversupplied. Other Europeans and the yen-hit Japanese are rushing into the buoyant specialized market sectors. It is still not clear that BS is ahead of the market rather than just following. So Mr Lister is likely to need lots more taxpayers' money as well as luck.

Motorway store to go ahead

By Our City Staff

Marks and Spencer's £20 million plan for an out-of-town, regional shopping centre on a greenfield site near Lisburn, 10 miles out of Belfast and beside Ulster's M1 motorway, was given outline planning permission by the Northern Ireland Department of the Environment yesterday.

The 10-acre project, on greenbelt land, will create about 700 casual and fulltime jobs although local traders have opposed it. A planning inquiry last March, however, recommended approval.

The centre will specialize in bulky "roof rack" items such as furniture, appliances, do-it-yourself materials and carpets. It will include a garden centre, parking space for 1,700 cars, a restaurant, coach park and bus lay-by.

The Ulster project is M&S's third away from the company's traditional high street locations. A similar "roof rack" shopping centre is under construction at Cheshunt in Hertfordshire.

Volcker budget warning

From Bailey Morris Washington

Mr Paul Volcker, the outgoing chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has repeated his warning that the large US budget deficit remains a serious blight on the world economy.

The warning came as Congressional officials disclosed that their efforts to achieve a bipartisan agreement on a budget reduction had collapsed.

The breakdown of talks on a revised version of mandatory spending cuts dashed hopes for substantial progress this year in reducing the record US deficit. Congressional officials said that although there would be another duel over tax increases and spending cuts, they did not expect a final agreement to emerge.

Mr Volcker also said that growing protectionism was "the clearest, most pressing danger" to economic stability. It was in this context that he denounced the Trade Bill passed this week by the Senate as legislation "which has gone too far."

President Reagan has already stated his intention to veto any programme which includes a modest tax increase



Paul Volcker: prefers spending cuts to revenue increases

of \$19 billion (£11.87 billion) to reduce the deficit. Congressional leaders had hoped to force Mr Reagan to accept some form of revenue increase by devising a new programme of mandatory spending cuts that would have threatened his military spending.

In the waning days of Mr Reagan's presidency, officials expect the politics of confrontation to prevail in dealings between the White House

and Congress. Mr Reagan has indicated over the past week that he would veto major pieces of legislation now before Congress.

Over the past two years, he has stated that deficit reduction must be a top priority. Even though he said he preferred spending cuts, Mr Volcker said he supported revenue increases if they were the only feasible way of achieving reductions.

DTI call to lower unit trust limit

By Peter Gartland, Family Money Editor

The Department of Trade yesterday unveiled the first tranche of its long-awaited draft regulations on the future of the unit trust industry.

The DTI document proposes that unit trust managers should be able to use financial futures to hedge their funds against currency fluctuations. At present, only the cumbersome method of back-to-back loans is permitted for currency-hedging.

For the first time also, unit trust managers will be allowed to borrow up to 10 per cent of the fund for up to one month. Borrowing will only be permitted to cover cash due to the fund but not yet received.

More controversially, the draft regulations effectively propose a lowering of the minimum number of shareholdings that a unit trust must have. At present the minimum is 20 holdings, based on the principle that not more

than 5 per cent of the fund can be invested in any one company.

In future the 5 per cent minimum can be raised to 10 per cent for up to four investments, to provide an effective minimum of 16 holdings.

Mr Bill Stuttford, chairman of the Unit Trust Association, said yesterday that in his personal view 16 was far too few. Sixteen is thought to be a compromise figure as part of EEC harmonization.

The way is also now open for the creation of unit trusts which concentrate on shares traded on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Comments on the DTI's draft regulations should be sent to Mr J G Burgoyne, Financial Services Division, Department of Trade and Industry, 10-18 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NN. Details, page 39

Bank ex-chief to face 75 charges

From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong

The former vice-president of the Ka Wah Bank will appear in court on September 2 to face 75 charges involving HK\$650 million (£50 million).

Mr Low Chang-bian, aged 43, is on bail of HK\$11 million. The charges include 50 of false accounting, 17 of conspiracy to defraud, six of theft, one of asking for a commission and one of "soliciting an advantage."

The offences are alleged to have led to the collapse of the bank in December 1985, when the Hong Kong government

discovered problem loans of almost HK\$4 billion, mainly to companies in Singapore and Malaysia. The China-backed China International Trust and Investment Corporation rescued the bank, which last month declared a profit of HK\$1.9 million for 1986, against a HK\$541 million loss the previous time.

The former chairman of the bank, Mr Low's brother, Chung-sung, is on bail of HK\$10 million and will also appear in court on September 2 to face 38 fraud and false accounting charges, involving more than HK\$500 million.

Abbey Panels slips

Interim trading profits at Abbey Panels Investments dropped from £641,000 to £595,000 because of trading volatility and tight margins in its aerospace activities. Sales at Abbey, a precision engineer

and fabricator to the motor, aerospace and defence industries, edged up to £6.58 million in the six months to March 31 from £6.54 million and the half-way dividend is unchanged at 1.2p.

Awful truth about Hogg split

Monday is high noon at the Hogg Robinson Group. Unless a counter-bidder appears over the horizon with a 600p-plus offer for Hogg, its shareholders could see their group split in half by Monday afternoon leaving them with two pieces of paper in their hands.

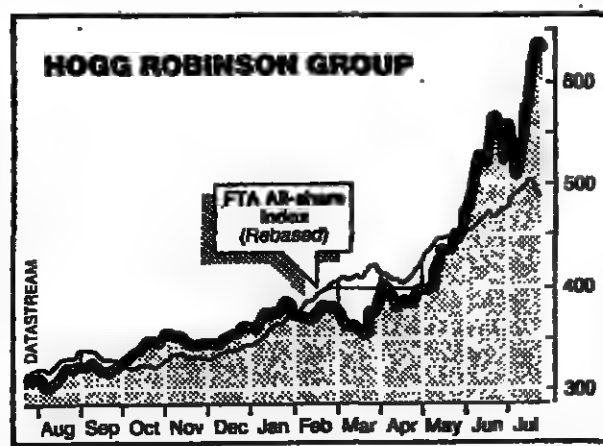
One will represent the travel, transport, financial services and property division; the other the insurance broking interests.

But will the two pieces still add up to Friday's 636p? A cold analysis of the two halves giving the travel arm a prospective p/e ratio of 17 and the broking side a p/e ratio of 16 suggests prices of 245p and 230p, respectively.

The waters were muddied yesterday when the Takeover Panel said it could give no ruling about whether a "travel only bid" would be allowed. The fear that the TSB 600p cash bid could thus fall away may swing the vote against the demerger plans, so allowing the 600p bid to stand.

However, if the demerger is approved and there is price weakness, that may not last that long, because bid developments are far from dead. If the TSB Group wanted Hogg Robinson's travel and estate agency side and had already drawn up an agreement to sell the insurance arm for £116 million cash, then in time others will show their hand, too. There were British and US buyers in the market on Friday.

Whatever the optimism about growth, it cannot be denied that Hogg Robinson at well above 600p reflects bid hopes rather than fundamentals.



The twist could well be that the TSB - depending on the Panel's attitude - comes back for the "clean" travel arm, even though this could mean having to pay more than originally planned.

Proxies already sent can now only be withdrawn by an actual appearance at the London meeting on Monday, so have your running shoes ready. The nervous should sell in the market.

In the meantime, if there is a mystery counter-bidder at 600p plus in the wings - would he please stand up?

Equities

The stock market is clearly in an unsettled mood after last week's grim trade figures and loosening of the reins on public spending.

Those trade figures may be a fluke after all and, despite the shift away from a firm spending figure, the Chancellor may nevertheless keep a firm hand on the tiller. But for the moment, no-one is willing to bet on it.

The next significant market event will occur after the

school holidays when analysts seriously begin to tackle the task of firming up their tentative forecasts of 1988 corporate profits in aggregate and at sectoral and individual company levels.

The results of this exercise will be a key determinant of investors' attitudes to equities this autumn and one thing is clear: the rapid rate of profits and company earnings growth seen over the past few years is due for a slowdown.

As the going becomes tougher, fund managers may begin to concentrate their attentions on British companies which have a strong position in world markets and are well able to fight back at competition from whatever source. BAT, Cadbury, Unilever, Rolls Royce, Pilkington and De la Rue are all companies which have that extra value which may be due for more specific recognition in the months ahead.

Dee Corp

So far as the City is concerned, Dee Corporation's chairman, Mr Alec Monk, has been sulking in a corner

since it delivered its thumbs down verdict on the purchase of Fine Fare for nearly £700 million and the flood of Dee shares which emerged in its wake.

If not actually abrasive, Mr Monk is certainly determined, you do not build Britain's third largest food retailing chain in a few years from a standing start by being a delicate flower. So he has perhaps been less patient than he might have been with inquirers from Fleet Street and the City during the long period of underperformance by Dee shares since the middle of last year.

With the publication this week of profits for the year to last April, Dee attempted to make amends and explain how and why it feels it had been misunderstood and unloved.

Mr Monk and his colleagues have attempted to clarify issues such as Dee's attitude to vendor placings, the use of substantial share issues, accounting policies and other areas for which it has been verbally abused by the investing community. The effort to bridge the understanding gap should help establish a better relationship with leading City institutions and allow them to concentrate more on fundamentals and less on past grievances, real or imagined.

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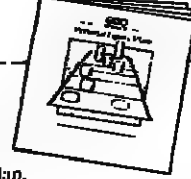
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1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130
1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170
1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210
1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	1222	1223	1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	1230	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	1242	1243	1244	1245	1246	1247	1248	1249	1250
1251	1252	1253	1254	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	1260	1261	1262	1263	1264	1265	1266	1267	1268	1269	1270	1271	1272	1273	1274	1275	1276	1277	1278	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	1284	1285	1286	1287	1288	1289	1290
1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	1296	1297	1298	1299	1300	1301	1302	1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	1308	1309	1310	1311	1312	1313	1314	1315	1316	1317	1318	1319	1320	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	1326	1327	1328	1329	1330
1331	1332	1333	1334	1335	1336	1337	1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1350	1351	1352	1353	1354	1355	1356	1357	1358	1359	1360	1361	1362	1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	1368	1369	1370
1371	1372	1373	1374	1375	1376	1377	1378	1379	1380	1381	1382	1383	1384	1385	1386	1387	1388	1389	1390	1391	1392	1393	1394	1395	1396	1397	1398	1399	1400	1401	1402	1403	1404	1405	1406	1407	1408	1409	1410
1411	1412	1413	1414	1415	1416	1417																																	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1987 Low Company Bid Price Gross Yld % P/E										1987 High Low Company Bid Price Gross Yld % P/E										1987 Low Company Bid Price Gross Yld % P/E										1987 High Low Company Bid Price Gross Yld % P/E									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240
241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280
281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320
321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360
361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400
401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440
441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480
481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520
521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560
561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600
601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640
641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680
681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720
721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760
761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800
801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840
841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880
881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920
921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960
961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000

1987 Low Company Bid Price Gross Yld % P/E										1987 High Low Company Bid Price Gross Yld % P/E										1987 Low Company Bid Price Gross Yld % P/E										1987 High Low Company Bid Price Gross Yld % P/E									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200
201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240
241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280
281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320
321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360
361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400
401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440
441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480
481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514						

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET —

[illegible]

هكذا من الأهل

Portfolio
—Gold—

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000	WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000
Claims required for +50 points	Claims required for +209 points
Claimants should ring 0754-53272	

[illegible]

50:	Charles Post	102	104	+/-	75	34	163
51:	Hansens	200	336	● +1	112	34	130
52:	Phil Samuels	540	695		20.3	2.8	14.8
53:	W. Stamph	77	78.1		3	3	2.2
54:	James Hargrave	555	575	+253	18.3	3.2	41.2
55:	King & Johnson	184	188		12.0	6.5	18.7
56:	Kenneth Brown	585	596	-7	18.2	3.3	31.1

130	79p Top (Doc)	172	177	..	34	255
171	Underwear	282	210	..	17	330
288	Ward White	480	411	107	26	174
373	Wines	375	363	-10	..	..
68	Windsor	129	124	-1	45	37
340	Woolworth (pat)	257	402	..	170	28

229	Bank Int	311	313	+3	11.0	35	18.0
135	Bank Int	319	325	+5	8.1	18	18.0
13	Bank (Rising)	405	447	+4	..	..	..
238	Banker	542	545	+4	13.7	25	30.2
11	Banker Inc	390	214	..	..	..	..
465	Banknote Corp	448	445	-1	..	..	..

73	Shawmut & Pelt	112	122	..	..	..	35
180	Bales	279	281	..	..	..	249
120	State Pacific A	1950	1991	+2	4.8	17	249
75	Sycamore	57	62	+1	..	..	..
100	Sylvania	335	355	-5	13.7	40	162
242	TI	386	380	+9	11.0	2.8	217

	Century	1900	1950	1970	1980		
1900	Chemical	26.3	250	-	7.9	3.1	15.7
1950	Chemical	65	67	-2 ^a			
1970	Oxide	97	99				
1980	Catalyst	310	315	11.0	3.5	27.5	
1990	Fertilizer	310	312	-3 ^b	11.6	3.7	26.8
2000	Fertilizer	64	68	+4			

Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim
 payment d Issued f Price at suspension g Dividend and
 paid exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures n
 forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or
 were split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

e Ex dividend f Ex all h Forecast dividend i Interim
 payment passed j Price at suspension k Dividend and
 yield exclude a special payment l Pre-merger figures n
 Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or
 share split t Tax-free No significant data

ANOTHER YEAR OF UNIVERSAL ACCLAIM

Yet again the results for the **Fleming Universal Investment Trust** for the year to 31st March 1987 have drawn applause from all quarters.

The ordinary share price alone has increased by 33.7%, while the total return to shareholders (including dividends) was an impressive 35.6%.

The world stock markets have seen unprecedented levels of activity over the past year.

This worldwide surge in enthusiasm for shares has been caused by generally falling interest rates

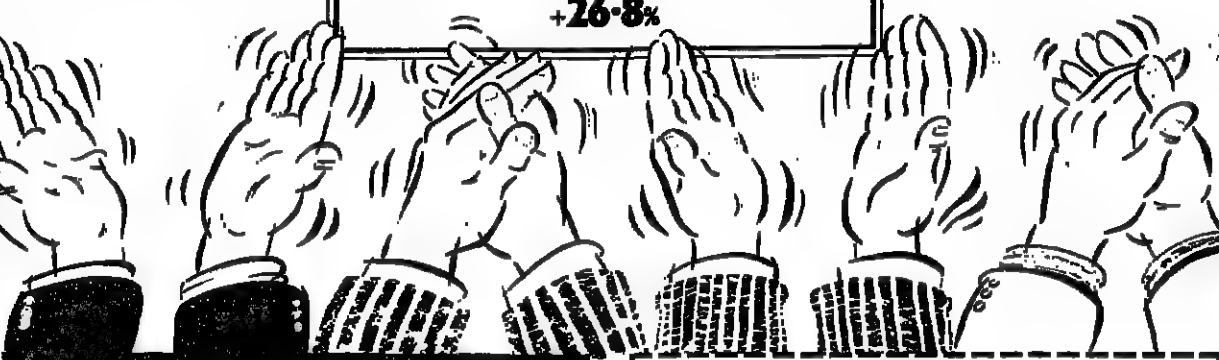
And as you can see from the table the **Fleming Universal Investment Trust** has comfortably outperformed the indices.

Thanks to the Fleming Investment Trust Savings Scheme you can now easily invest in Fleming Universal shares by regular savings from as little as £25 a month or with lump sums of £250 or more.

A Personal Equity Plan (PEP) facility is also available to all investors.

If you would like to find out more, simply return this coupon.

FLEMING UNIVERSAL INVESTMENT TRUST
+35.6%
MSCI WORLD INDEX
+31.0%
F.T. ACTUARIES ALL-SHARE INDEX
+26.8%



FLEMING UNIVERSAL
A general rather than specialist trust, with an emphasis on radical geographical and sector changes to achieve the best possible total return. Revenue can vary from year to year with changes in investment policy and exchange rates. Shareholders should therefore be prepared to accept a fluctuating level of dividend

GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF INVESTMENTS

at 30th June 1987	Japan 4%
North America 48%	United Kingdom 21%
Continental Europe 18%	Pacific Basin 9%

FLEMINGS

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Please send me a copy of the Fleming Universal Investment Trust Annual Report and a copy of the Fleming Savings Scheme brochure

Post to: Robert Fleming Services Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue
London EC2R 7DR

Post to Robert Fleming Services Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue
London EC2R 7DR.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode:

1

FAMILY MONEY

	Normal rate	Compounded return at tax rates 27% 45% 60%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact	Retail Prices Index (June '86 to June '87) +4.2	
BANKS						Mortgage rate 12-25%	
Ordinary Deposit A/c/ National Girobank	3.00 3.00	3.02 3.02	2.28 2.28	1.65 1.65	1 min 1 min	0-7 day 7 day	01-600 5020
Fixed Term Deposits: National Westminster	6.00 6.25	6.00 6.25	4.52 4.71	3.29 3.42	10,000-24,999 10,000-24,999	1 mth 6 mth	01-726 1000 01-726 1000
Midland	5.46 5.93	5.46 5.93	4.11 4.47	2.99 4.25	10,000-24,999 10,000-24,999	1 mth 6 mth	01-260 8000 01-260 8000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						Bank prime overdraft rate* 12%-17% APR	
Ordinary A/c	5.00	5.06	3.81	2.77	1 min	—	—
Britannia ²	7.15	7.15	5.39	3.92	250 min	—	—
Bradford & Bingley ²	7.50	7.50	5.65	4.11	1,000 min	—	—
Cheltenham & Gloucester	7.75	7.75	5.84	4.25	5,000 min	—	—
Nationwide Non-Resid ²	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1 min	—	—
MONEY FUNDS						Personal loan rate* 19.6% APR	
Aitken Hume Monthly Inc	6.21	6.39	4.81	3.50	1,000 min	—	01-638 6070
Allied Arab HICA	6.58	6.79	6.54	3.72	3,000 min	—	01-628 2046
Bank of Scotland	6.09	6.27	4.72	3.44	2,500 min	—	01-626 8060
Barclays High Rate Dep	6.00	6.14	4.83	3.36	1,000 min	—	01-626 1567
"	6.25	6.40	4.82	3.51	10,000 min	—	01-626 1567
Britannia High Interest	6.01	6.19	4.66	3.39	2,500 min	—	01-588 2777
Citibank Money Mkt Plus ²	6.00	6.17	4.65	3.38	2,000 min	—	01-741 4941
HFC Trust & Savings	7.50	7.64	5.76	4.19	5,000 min	—	01-236 8391
Herendson Cheque A/c	6.09	6.27	4.72	3.44	2,500 min	—	01-638 6757
L & H Gt Int Deposit	6.38	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min	1 mth	01-388 3211
Lloyds Investment A/c ²	6.90	6.90	5.20	3.78	5,000 min	3 mth	01-407 1000
Lloyds HICA ²	5.50	5.61	4.23	3.07	1,000 min	—	01-407 1000
M&G HICA	6.21	6.39	4.81	3.50	2,500 min	—	01-626 4588
Midland HICA	6.00	6.14	4.63	3.36	2,000 min	—	0742 52900
"	6.20	6.35	4.78	3.48	10,000 min	—	0742 52900
Nat West Special Reserve	6.00	6.27	4.72	3.44	2,000 min	—	01-726 1000
"	6.25	6.40	4.82	3.51	10,000 min	—	01-726 1000
Oppenheimer Money Mngmt	5.74	5.88	4.43	3.22	1,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9382
"	5.88	5.98	4.49	3.27	10,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9382
Phillips & Drew HICA	6.68	6.85	5.16	3.75	2,500 min	—	01-628 9771
Provincial Trust Chq A/c	6.77	6.99	5.27	3.83	1,000 min	—	061-9289011
Royal Bk of Scot Prem A/c	5.92	6.05	4.56	3.32	2,500 min	—	031-5570201
S & P Classic	6.11	6.29	4.74	3.45	500 min	—	0708-666661
Schroder Wagg	5.55	5.70	4.29	3.12	2,500 min	—	0705 827733
Tyndall Coll	5.74	5.90	4.45	3.23	10,000 min	—	0272-732241
UDT 7-day	6.30	6.45	4.86	3.53	5,000 min	7 day	0253 65151
Western Trust	6.16	6.34	4.78	3.47	2,500 min	1 mth	0752 261161
NATIONAL SAVINGS						Holiday exchange rates* Spanish peseta 177 French franc 9 Greek drachma 2 Italian lira 21	
Ordinary A/c ²	6.00	6.17	4.65	3.38	1-10,000	8 day	041-6494555
Investment A/c ²	10.00	7.30	5.50	4.00	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond ²	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66161
Deposit Bond ²	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	100-100,000	3 mth	041-6494555
Indexed Income Bond ²	8.00	8.84	6.40	3.20	5,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66161
33rd Issue Cert ¹	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	25-1,000	6 day	091-3864900
Yearly Plan	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3864900
General Extension Rate ¹	7.02	7.02	7.02	7.02	—	—	—
Retail Price Index: Jun	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	—	—	—
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						FUND OFFERS	
New Direction Finance	7.50	7.50	6.15	5.03	1,000 min	1 yr	01-626 3581
New Direction Finance	7.50	7.50	6.15	5.03	1,000 min	2 yrs	01-626 3581
Premier Life	7.50	7.50	6.23	5.09	1,000 min	3 yrs	01-407 2767
Premium Life	7.60	7.60	6.23	5.09	1,000 min	4 yrs	0444 458721
Blackhorse Life	8.25	8.25	6.77	5.53	2,000 min	5 yrs	0634.405161
LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS*						Fidelity pages 31 and 32	
Northampton	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.74	500 min	1 yr	01-407 2767
Kirklees	6.76	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min	2 yrs	01-407 2767
Kirklees	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min	3 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.74	500 min	4 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.74	500 min	5 yrs	01-407 2767
Northampton	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.74	500 min	6 yrs	01-407 2767
Northampton	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.74	500 min	7 yrs	01-407 2767
Bristol	6.50	6.50	4.90	3.56	1,000 min	8 yrs	01-407 2767
Bristol	6.50	6.50	4.90	3.56	1,000 min	9 yrs	01-407 2767
Bristol	6.50	6.50	4.9	3.56	1,000 min	10 yrs	01-407 2767
FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS						Equity & Law page 32	
Sterling	7.70	—	—	—	—	—	MIM Britannia
US Dollar	5.73	—	—	—	—	—	Jersey
2.53	—	—	—	—	—	—	Barclays Uniforms
D Mark	2.92	—	—	—	—	—	Guinness Flight
French Franc	8.41	—	—	—	—	—	Wardley
Swiss Franc	1.98	—	—	—	—	—	MIM Britannia
ASB 9.50%						BASE LENDING RATES	
Adair & Company	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	8.00%
BCCI	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	8.00%
Consolidated Crd	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	8.00%
Co-operative Bank	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	8.00%
C. Hoare & Co.	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	8.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741	8.00%

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

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Edited by Peter Gartland

FAMILY MONEY/1

Things to do with a million pounds

THIS WEEK

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Boots offer

Boots has received significant support from shareholders for its plan to give the option of an additional allocation of ordinary shares rather than a dividend. A total of 40,000 shareholders, a third of the total, have chosen this option.

Sort this out!

The Consumers' Association has called for a central sorting office to pass investors' complaints to the correct financial ombudsman, avoiding confusion that could arise from the existing three ombudsmen schemes and the possibility of five more.

Bigger bonuses

General Accident Life is to increase its terminal bonus rates from August 1 and claims 25-year maturity values are now 30 per cent higher than a year ago. It says the increase is well covered by the improvement in stock market values and expects to maintain the rates for the foreseeable future.

The £75,000 prize money pocketed by Nick Faldo for winning the British Open last Sunday could be the start of untold wealth but, just like ordinary mortals, the golf champion has to plan his finances.

PETER GARTLAND reports

Although the British Open was Nick Faldo's most dramatic triumph this year, it was not his first. He won the Spanish Open in May, thereby ending a three-year lean spell.

Just how lean this spell was can be gauged by the fact that he told *The Times* after his Spanish success: "I'm not prepared to put a figure on it but by last year my earnings had taken a huge nosedive. I didn't even want to look at the accountant's figures."

Now, just a few weeks later, Faldo can not only look at the accountant's figures but will feel a very warm glow when he does so.

The packaging and marketing of world-beating sports personalities is a well documented phenomenon of the 1980s, especially when the star of the show is as photogenic as Faldo. Among his more obvious product endorsement possibilities are golf equipment and sportswear.

But Faldo's advisers, Mark McCormack's International Management Group, are likely to be studying a whole range of options during the next few weeks. IMG's initial figure of £1 million as being Nick Faldo's marketing worth looks

International chartered accountants Touche Ross stressed that an important feature of financial planning for any sportsman should be the build-up of wealth so that when income flow becomes more erratic, he should not suffer financially.

The first step in planning this is for the golfer to become Nick Faldo Inc. In other words, a corporate structure should be created for him and this company would receive income from all sources connected with his golfing activities.

The chief advantage of this, according to Victor Washell, of Touche Ross, is that the top rate of corporation tax paid by Nick Faldo Inc would be 35 per cent. Faldo as an individual would be subject to normal income tax rates, which means that in his high-earning

Investment in tax-efficient shelters should be considered

years he would be taxed at the top rate of 60 per cent income tax on all prize and sponsorship money earned.

Of course, any salary paid out by Nick Faldo Inc would still be subject to income tax. There is scope for for determining how much reasonable salary can be paid.

Touche Ross also points out that as a significant amount of Faldo's work will be carried out overseas, an employment contract with a company set up solely and specifically in connection with his overseas duties could be set up.

In these circumstances, and provided strict Inland Revenue rules were observed, earnings in respect of those overseas activities could be paid with a 100 per cent deduction. In non-accountants' language that means "tax-free".

One thing Faldo does need to look out for is the possibility of taxation on earnings in countries overseas. As a sportsman, he is not protected by double taxation treaties.

The overseas "long absence", as it is known, would not stop Faldo playing golf or doing other work in the UK, but he should restrict his UK stay to two months in any 365-day period and have his UK work covered by a separate employment contract.

Mr Washell also says thought should be given to investing in tax-efficient shelters such as woodlands, and that there should be regular reviews of Faldo's life assurance cover and his and his wife's will.

Over at top London stockbrokers Capel-Cure Myers, the first reaction of the firm partner Fred Carr was to advise Faldo to go abroad and become non-resident. How-



Nick Faldo triumphs... now he has a winner's money

ever, with proper financial structuring, Mr Carr believes Faldo will not do too badly in the UK now that taxes are less onerous than they were just a few years ago.

Mr Carr agrees with the advice from Touche Ross that the priority is to create a corporate structure for Faldo's earnings.

Ownership of the company could be spread among other members of his family as well as his wife, though not his daughter, Natalie. For her, says Mr Carr, it would be a good idea to set up an accumulation and maintenance trust that would cover future children as well.

This is a very effective tax planning vehicle, whose main benefit would be to provide for Natalie's future school fees and living expenses.

Once the company has been set up, it should take out key man insurance as well as permanent health and accident cover on Faldo.

Then there is the pension. There is always the pension.

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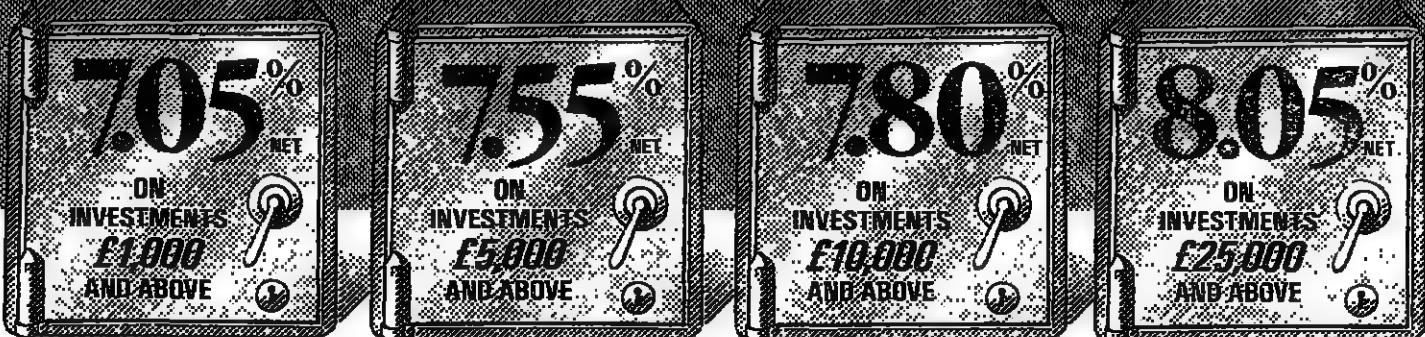


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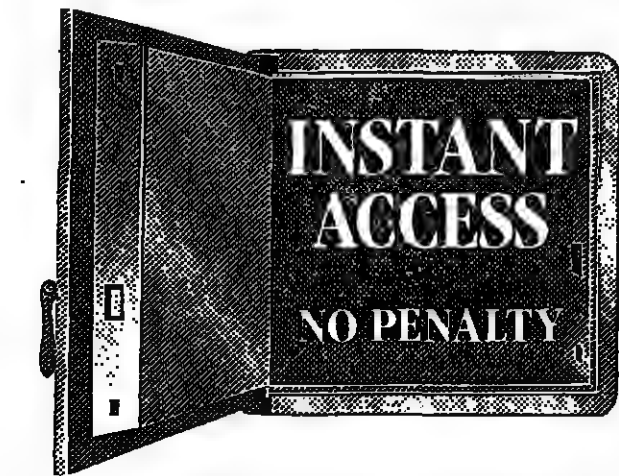
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Tangle of the triple take-over

In circumstances reminiscent of the heyday of the Amsterdam "boiler-room" share-pushing swindles, a stock-broking firm with branches in Rotterdam and Geneva is tipping shares in an American company, Sherwood Financial, on the basis of its "dynamic management" and its successful acquisition of three UK companies.

Yet inquiries by *The Times* this week have established that:

- Sherwood has bought none of the three British companies named.
- One of the three appears to have gone out of business.

● A director and senior staff member of another have resigned amid claims and counter-claims over debts.

● Sherwood's British vice-president has resigned.

● And all trading in Sherwood shares in the United States is at a halt following a court case brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The stockbrokers, Chelsea Financial, claim in their *Flash Report* tip-sheet sent to investors in Britain that Sherwood Financial has "scooped up three UK companies simultaneously" in a move that

"speaks well for the dynamism of Sherwood's management". The companies, all based in the Nottingham area, are named as travel agents Linroy Travel, Sherwood (General Insurance Services), and life insurance brokers Gladstone and Associates. A Gladstone director, the Not-

Director and salesman go

tingham businessman Cornelius Gary Sullivan, is also president of Sherwood Financial.

This week Mr Sullivan's lawyers on both sides of the Atlantic emphatically denied that Sherwood had bought any of the three companies, and demanded that Chelsea issue a retraction. Sherwood had signed a contract in April to buy all three businesses, they said, but the present owners, FMS Group, had so far failed to produce essential company records or even proof of ownership.

And last week the Association of British Travel Agents announced that Linroy Travel had ceased to trade. Staff were told the company was being placed in voluntary liquidation.

In a further blow to Chelsea's glowing report on Sherwood's would-be subsidiaries, two key members of Gladstone's staff have recently left the company. A director Bob Coleman and a salesman Jim McKay resigned, both claiming to be owed back pay or expenses. Their claims are denied by the company, whose solicitors are preparing a court action against Mr McKay for the return of his company car which, he says, he is holding "hostage".



the Dutch authorities last year.

The take-over collapsed when the Securities and Exchange Commission applied in a Chicago court for injunctions banning GSS and Sherwood from proceeding with the merger, alleging it was part of a fraudulent scheme. This week SEC officials said both companies have consented to the injunctions without admitting to the SEC's allegations. But trading in Sherwood shares, which was frozen by the SEC, has yet to resume.

GSS is like Sherwood, an over-the-counter stock traded by a handful of American market-makers. Its shares have been heavily promoted in mailshots and high-pressure telephone calls to British investors by Timezone, a Madrid-based company having close links with Tower Securities, an Amsterdam firm of share-pushers closed down by

Chelsea Financial is an American-owned business with a reputation for making a market in particularly risky shares. The Amsterdam stock exchange views it as dangerous to Holland's fragile reputation for protecting investors.

Tony Hetherington

Huge claims in coffee swindle

The Financial Services Act will make false or misleading statements to potential investors a criminal offence. LAWRENCE LEVER reports on investors who lost money through bogus information

Investors have made claims for thousands of pounds against Cargill Investor Services Ltd (CIS), a futures broker, after a CIS agent persuaded them to sell coffee on the basis of patently misleading statements.

The agent, Nigel Goldman, is now in jail for attempted fraud over an entirely different matter. At the time he was an independent broker having an exclusive arrangement with CIS to introduce futures business. CIS and Goldman shared the commission earned from clients he introduced.

On December 12, 1985, Goldman persuaded Peter Jackson and David Batty to sell coffee short — that is, to sell coffee they did not have, in the hope of later buying it back more cheaply.

Both men say Goldman told them the coffee price was about to fall, because a drought in Brazil that had kept prices up had ended the previous night. He added that the International Coffee Exchange's rules now allowed coffee to be released on to the market, thereby sending prices down. These statements were untrue. Four days later Goldman repeated them to Paul Humphries, Mr Jackson's brother-in-law, who then also sold coffee short.

All three lost money — Mr Batty £15,615, Mr Jackson \$4,300, Mr Humphries' loss was about £6,900, including commission. It is not yet known how many others were fed false information by Goldman to persuade them to deal in commodity futures. Some sources put the total lost by individuals at around £250,000, although Richard Duncan, a CIS director, says it is nearer £25,000.

CIS sued Mr Humphries. It had taken about £3,700 of money he had on deposit with it and wanted the balance. Mr Humphries counter-claimed for the return of his money.

CIS eventually dropped its claim but Mr Humphries pursued his counter-claim and won. The judge awarded Mr Humphries his £3,700 back. According to notes of his judgment, he said Goldman had "deliberately mis-stated the facts" on the state of the coffee market and that Goldman had been negligent in failing to explain the potentially unlimited risk to his clients in selling coffee short.

As a result of the ruling Mr Batty is now claiming from CIS his lost £15,615 plus interest and damages because of the adverse effects he says the loss had on his retail jewellery business.

Mr Jackson, who did not pay CIS, is claiming costs. CIS tried to wind up his company when he did not pay and Mr Jackson is claiming £3,000 legal costs incurred in getting a judgment against his company set aside. CIS is negotiating with both men.

CIS is a subsidiary of a large US parent. It is a member of the AFBF — the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers — responsible for policing commodity dealers.

Mr Duncan at CIS says the company was introduced to Goldman by a person who at the time was a CIS employee. "I believe we did make checks," he says. "Mr Goldman was associated with us for about 15 months from November 1984 to February 1986." He says Goldman was not allowed to use the Cargill name to win business. Nevertheless, all the contract notes and statements of account came directly from CIS.

"We would say Mr Goldman was not our agent," he maintains. He says most of his company's business is not with private clients, adding: "At no stage has CIS been accused of any wrongdoing."

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According to every statistic ever produced about the effect of drink on drivers, you would certainly be less of a danger to mankind by sticking to lemonade.

But from a stress point of view - and, therefore, from the point of view of your chances of having a heart attack rather than an accident - half a pint might be just what the doctor ordered. The dilemma is whether that half-pint should be taken en route or when you have arrived.

To many people, drink remains the demon to be avoided at all costs. But in the cool, calculating world of the life insurance actuary, the cost can be assessed both accurately and rationally.

Indeed, the total abstainer is, and always has been, bad news for the life underwriter, on the basis that the teetotaler has a shorter life expectancy than the light drinker. In the past, many companies loaded their policies against the abstainer, offending groups such as the Quakers, who argue that their lifestyle is healthier than most.

These days none of the bigger life assurance companies discriminates against the non-drinker, although mortality tables continue to show that a little drink now and again is good for you.

The problems begin when "social drinkers" take more than the therapeutic half-pint and, in particular, when they then get into their motor cars.

Industry figures show that alcohol costs insurance com-

panies £90 million a year in blood test metal alone, even before lost limbs and premature death are taken into account.

So it is surprising that only one company - Ansvar - goes out of its way to encourage abstinence. Indeed, the company will insure only non-drinkers.

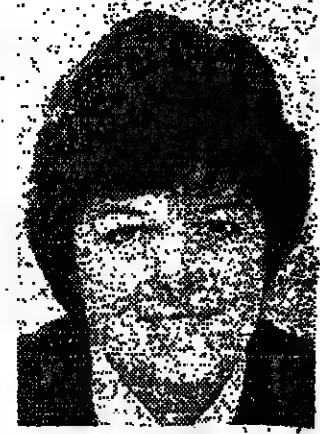
And despite the longer opening hours and increasing consumption of alcohol, business is booming. Ansvar calculates that between 11 and 14 per cent of adult Britons are teetotal and therefore potential customers. Its Swedish parent company already has 5 per cent of the domestic motor market in Sweden.

Competitors say Ansvar is expensive and offers little in the way of discounts. Geoffrey Williams, the managing direc-

For other insurers, the blood test is merely the start of their problems. Sooner or later the drunken driver will get his licence back and want to be insured again. In most cases, he will approach the original insurer.

Gerald Eaton, of Legal & General, concedes that the insurer at the time of the accident - who may have had to pay out a fortune in damage claims - is more or less obliged to quote for the business. The industry's code of practice sees to it that bad risks are evenly divided.

"As insurers, we always say there is a rate for everything," says Mr Eaton. "And somebody with a licence is entitled to be insured, as well as being obliged to provide at least third party cover. But nobody really wants to take on some-



Hayter: trying again

he has kicked the habit, the rate might go down.

"Ironically, nobody values life assurance more than somebody who has been close to death."

Despite the cost of alcohol, few companies - including those in the health insurance business, where group cover is virtually standard practice - delve deeply into a potential client's drinking habits.

But some undoubtedly look for give-away phrases and, in some cases, even addresses that may spark off further inquiries.

Overend Wood, of insurance brokers Loftus and Co, says most companies do not like the phrase "social drinking only" in reply to a question about booze. "They want something specific," he says, "although I doubt if many people can actually give an accurate answer."

With longer licensing hours, insurance companies may be forced to rephrase their own questions and even draw attention to the danger of social drinking, especially if it is followed by driving.

Dianne Hayter, director of Alcohol Concern, an independent charity, has in the past pressed companies to encourage drivers not to drink but has never had much success. In September, she intends to try again.

"We are not against drinking," she says, "but we are against drinking and driving, and would like to see lower premiums for people who don't drink and drive. We shall be asking insurance companies to draw attention to the danger when they send out their renewal notices."

Keith Sharp



A few pints may aid longevity, then raise insurance costs

tor, concedes that Ansvar is not the cheapest - "but neither do we want to be".

Ansvar is not the most expensive either. Mr Williams cites, for example, comparative rates for a businessman in Bristol driving a 2.8 litre Granada: "Our quote, for fully comprehensive cover, with the maximum no-claim bonus, would be £217. This compares with £242 for Sun Alliance, £275 for Guardian Royal Exchange and £301 for Cornhill."

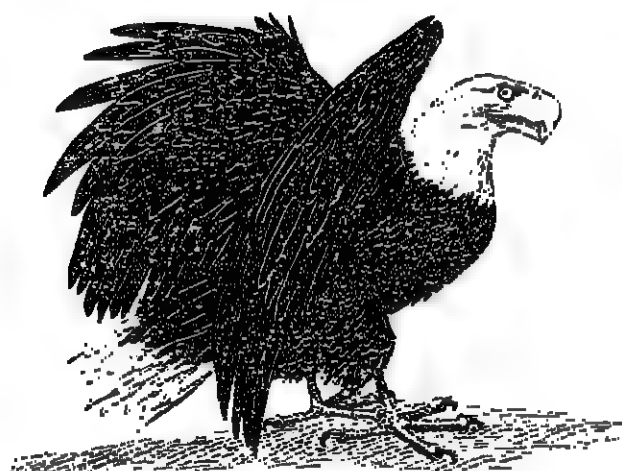
Life gets interesting when somebody with an Ansvar policy is in an accident and is found to have alcohol in the bloodstream. Mr Williams takes the view that the company has been misled and accepted the risk on the basis of false information. On occasion, contracts have been declared null and void.

For normal term assurance, a heavy drinker who may have damaged his liver can expect to pay at least three times the usual premium," he said. "But if he can prove that

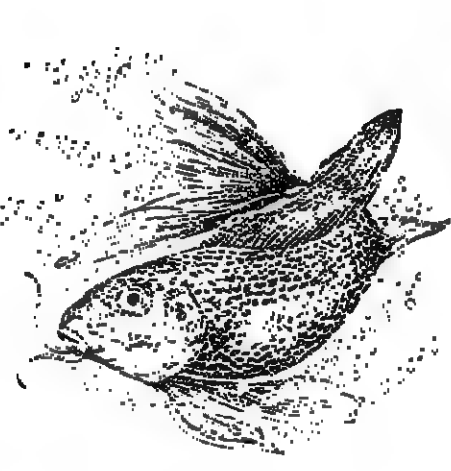


Kettleborough: "It varies"

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FAMILY MONEY/15

مكثان الأهل



Do your sums if you own a holiday home

PROPERTY

People owning a country cottage, seaside flat or villa abroad tend to let it during August — the peak holiday season and consequently the month bringing in the highest rental income.

Provided all the necessary criteria connected with owning a second home are adhered to, the canny landlord should expect a profit that covers all annual running costs, including insurance, continuing repairs and his own holidays.

Provided the accounts are sensibly balanced, income tax liability should be negligible. But it is a foolish investor indeed who plans to finance a second mortgage through rental income.

Potential holiday home owners should consider carefully the actual annual outgoings, rather than estate agents' hyperbole, about the place running itself. Standing charges for electricity and gas, rates and water rates, insurance cover for both building and contents, maintenance, repairs and redecoration — not to mention gardening — all add up.

Always employ a reputable company

Employing a managing agent on a property in Spain, Portugal or France now costs an average of 25 per cent of the rental income, and sadly there are rogue companies. The oldest trick in the book is for an unscrupulous agent to inform the hapless landlord, thousands of miles away, that he was able to let the property for only a few weeks of the year when in fact he was pocketing the entire rent.

So always employ a reputable company, preferably one with international connections, such as the appropriate department of a large estate agent, or a personally recommended company.

Check carefully what you get for your money. Most agents supply the linen and clean the property weekly, pay

all bills and check the home both when it is empty and when it is let.

In Britain, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has a set of guidelines for managing agents which should apply to holiday lets. These are not mandatory, however. So, if in doubt, before committing yourself and your property to a particular company, ask your solicitor to check the contract.

The RICS reckons on a 15 per cent management fee and for this the agents should submit bills and collect the rent, deal with all the standard outgoings for landlords and be available to the tenants. The agent, depending on the individual agreement, should oversee maintenance work, inspect the property regularly, deal with repairs and generally, for the 15 per cent, take on the responsibilities of running the property concerned.

People owning a UK holiday home — and nearly 250,000 of them do — are entitled to various tax allowances should they decide to organize their lettings on a business footing.

Since the 1984 Finance Act rental profits are taxed as earned income and, in general, tax relief on the loan interest to finance the purchase can be claimed.

The main stipulations are:

- The property must be in the UK.
- The property must be available for letting for at least 20 weeks a year and let for a minimum of 10 weeks.
- Lettings must be on a commercial basis — not to family and friends at a nominal rent.
- For at least seven months of the year — not necessarily consecutive — no one tenant should stay for more than 31 days at a time.

The chartered accountants Dearden Farrow have a free booklet, *Live and Let*, explaining all the intricacies of holiday lettings. It is available from Dearden Farrow, 1 Serjeants Inn, London EC4Y 1JD.

Diana Wildman

Maths man who fixes your bonus

An actuary coins the following description . . . of an actuary:

"He is a man past middle life, spare, wrinkled, intelligent, cold, passive, non-committal, with eyes like a codfish, polite in contact but at the same time unresponsive, calm and as damnably composed as a plaster of Paris coat — a human petrification with a heart of feldspar. Happily, they never reproduce and all of them finally go to hell."

All joking apart, if you belong to a company pension scheme how confident are you that the scheme will be able to afford what you are promised? When the insurance company declares a reversionary bonus on your with-profits life policy, can you be sure that the company has really made the profit to pay you? Putting a figure on these liabilities is the actuary's responsibility but he has no crystal ball.

"The most common misconception people have of us is that we can see into the future," says 44-year-old Chris Hairs, director and actuary of Legal & General Assurance.

He acknowledges that actuaries can only calculate percentages of risk by looking at past statistics. And how can they decide what real rates of return to assume for assets? A dozen years ago interest rates were below the inflation rate. Today they are well ahead of the cost of living and salaries.

With an insurance policy or

pension scheme needing to look 15 or 20 years ahead, how can the actuary divine a long-term trend?

Mr Hairs admits there is an element of herd instinct and actuaries form a consensus view: "If you are going to make assumptions contrary to the accepted wisdom of the time, it's as well to remember first that there are some pretty damned smart guys out there who've formed that view. That's what a learned profession is all about."

Actuaries are, above all else,

'You try to respond to factors such as Aids'

mathematicians. Mr Hairs graduated with a good mathematics degree (but not a first) from King's College London. He became an actuary "because it was one of the careers available to mathematicians".

He recalls: "I was halfway through university and realized that time was running out for me as a perpetual student. I hadn't even heard of an actuary up till then but I saw it as applied mathematics — applied in a business sense."

"These days there is the theory but it's really all about the dynamic of one's own business and adapting to changes in the economy and life about you. You're trying to respond more effectively to factors such as Aids — worrying to insurance companies — and inflation."



Chris Hairs: "margin of error"

After university he took a further five years to qualify as an actuary.

Mr Hairs says actuarial work appeals if you enjoy puzzles: "It's first recognizing the problem is there to be solved and then finding a way to describe the puzzle so that it can become solvable."

But what of those bonuses on life policies? "It's a question of how much it's safe to release from past earnings," says Mr Hairs. "The way bonuses are released has changed under the pressure of very high inflation we experienced in the 1970s and it is still under pressure because of the quite amazing Stock Exchange gap which has opened up between fixed interest yields and inflation."

"How temporary is it? We don't know. The one thing you can be sure of is that the most likely-looking future won't happen."

"But when you're deciding bonus rates on life policies or advising on a pension fund you can be sure that the client is averse to surprises and most averse to unpleasant surprises. So you build in margins for error."

John Roberts

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Source: Global Investor, May 1987

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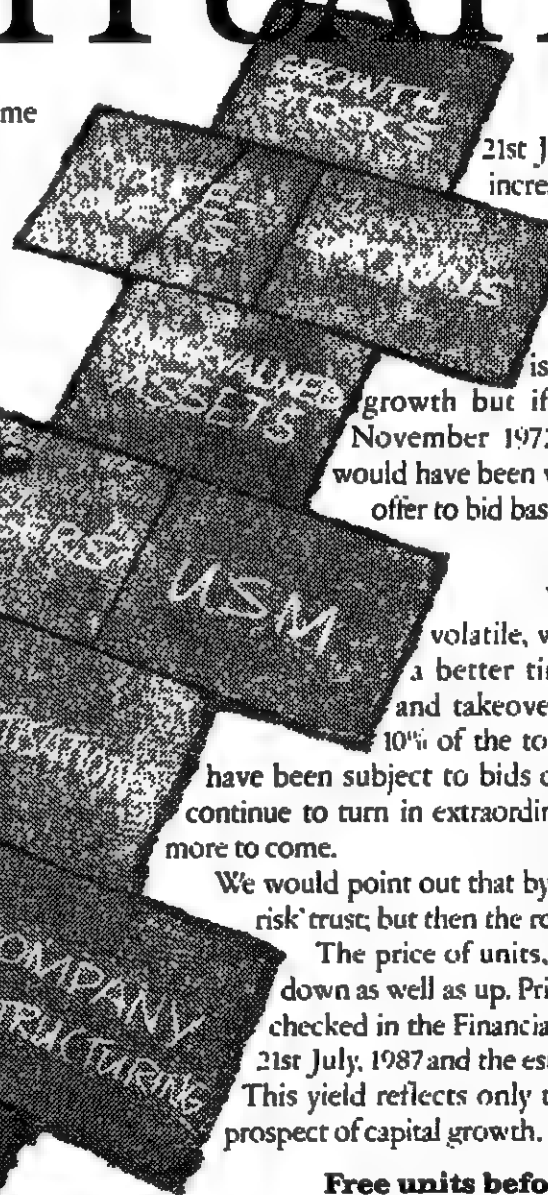
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And, over the six months to 21st July 1987, the value of the Trust has increased by 65.8% on an offer to offer basis whilst the Financial Times All Share Index rose by only 39.4% (adjusted for reinvestment of income).

Of course, past performance is not necessarily any guide to future growth but if you had invested £1,000 on 1st November 1972 when the Trust was launched it would have been worth £25,690 on 21st July 1987 on an offer to bid basis, with net income accumulated.

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The magic of the Orient is coming true

In recent years the Far East, and especially Japan, has become a favourite area for UK unit trust investors. In this special two-page report, **RICHARD NEWELL** assesses the outlook for these markets

As your unit trust portfolio develops, you will want to spread into foreign markets. The most attractive area in terms of the potential returns could well be the Far East.

The largest market is Japan, which has produced tremendous profits for investors in recent years. Others such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and the Philippines are also yielding great rewards.

Greater prospects of long-term growth

The best-performing Far Eastern trusts in the past year have been those with the greatest part of their money in these smaller markets. That is not to say that Japan has not done well, just that the others have done better.

The top performer, Warley Pacific Basin, has grown by 106 per cent in the year to July 1, 1987. The average for the 61 funds with a one-year performance is just under 50 per cent, so clearly there are some unit trust companies that do not have much Far Eastern expertise.

This should be borne in mind when choosing a Far East unit trust. You must make sure that the management group can show consistently above-average performance in this sector. Nothing is worse than investing in a fund whose performance does not reflect the spectacular gains made by its market.

A company with repre-

sentatives in the Far East seems to have an automatic advantage. Thornton Unit Managers, for example, is advised by a team of specialists in Hong Kong for the benefit of its Far Eastern Opportunities Trust. The trust has invested heavily in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines recently, benefiting from a 25 per cent rise in Hong Kong, 49 per cent in Singapore and 72 per cent in the Philippines during the past six months.

Long-term growth prospects for the Far Eastern stock markets are greater than anywhere else in the world. They are unlikely to be an overnight success, however, and there may be nasty hiccups along the way, but that is a risk you must accept to give yourself a chance of making a fortune.

David Baker, executive director in charge of Sun Life's international funds, says: "It is a high-risk area, more so than the UK or the US, but at the same time it is geared to world growth. If growth in the US is 2 per cent you can expect much greater figures from the Far Eastern countries - not so much from Japan but certainly from the smaller countries."

Mr Baker's favourite market is Hong Kong, which takes up 35 per cent of Sun Life's Far East Growth Fund. Mr Baker says: "Their economy is booming, export figures show substantial growth, tourism is a major growth industry and demand for property is very strong indeed."

Unit trusts specializing in Hong Kong have naturally performed very well in line with the market. Investors with an eye for short-term growth should certainly consider one of the six specialist Hong Kong funds for their portfolio.

Those who have not got a great deal of money to spread around the international markets should choose one of the more general Far East funds.

All eyes on volatile Tokyo

The Japanese stock market continued to rise steeply in the first six months of this year, against all expectations.

After the dramatic rise in the market during 1986, market analysts were saying Tokyo had peaked. But only now is it showing signs of weakness, at a level that is pure fantasy by the standards of the other major world markets.

The Japanese stock market has a mind of its own. Whereas in other countries stock market sentiment tends to reflect economic prospects, this is not the case in Tokyo.

Even though Japan's economic growth has been slowing down for years, it has been boom time for investors. The market has been driven to these high levels by private speculation and the huge amounts of money being handled by the Japanese financial institutions.

Japan has one of the largest stock markets in the world and it is important that any investor with international horizons should consider having

FAR EAST GROWTH FUNDS/1

Anyone who had a degree of success at the task was quickly poached by a rival group. In 1986 it became academic because the Japanese market started performing somewhat better and suddenly everyone was a winner.

Investors in Japan over one year or more must be very happy with the results. For example, those who invested £1,000 with County Bank's Japan Growth fund a year ago now have an investment worth more than £1,500.

If you had put £1,000 into Fidelity's Japan fund five years ago it would be worth nearly £6,000 today.

And if by chance you happen to have invested in Henderson's Japan fund 10 years ago, your £1,000 would now be £10,000.

If this is not the top of the market, it must surely be pretty close. Most fund managers are a little nervous and will urge caution to anyone thinking of putting vast sums into Japan.

Sarah Arkle, manager of Allied Dunbar's Japan Trust,

says the Tokyo stock market is on an average price-earnings ratio of 75 - meaning the average share price is 75 times greater than its earnings per share - which is, she says, impossible to justify by any normal pricing standard.

But this is not any normal market, and fundamental analysis is of little use in assessing whether a particular Japanese share is a good buy or not. And with no conventional indicators to rely on for guidance as to whether the market is going up or down, it is essential to have good local connections.

Some unit trust groups have offices in Tokyo and run the fund from there. Others must rely on London-based managers with a flair for spotting the winners and sending them out to Tokyo occasionally to keep in touch with what is happening locally.

Before the 1986 bonanza, Japanese unit trusts made gains not just on stock selection but through the fluctuations in the yen-sterling exchange rate.

The major factor that will determine whether there is to be any further appreciation in the market is the prospect of a significant shift in exchange rates. Because the yen is so strong, the Japanese institutions have had their fingers burnt in the foreign exchange

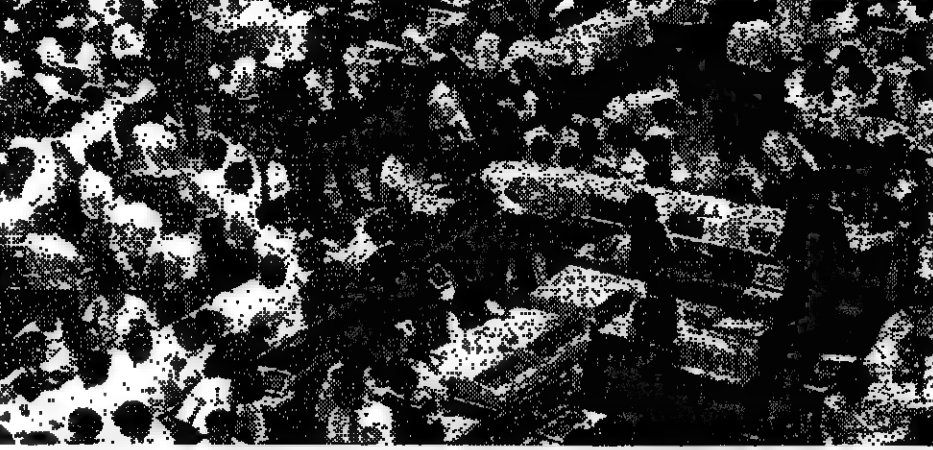


David Baker: switched markets, so they are propping up their own stock market until such time as the yen weakens.

Graham Ellis, of Royal London Unit Trust Managers, says: "Our view is that investors should stay with Japan short-term. The major risk is if the dollar has in fact turned and the yen has peaked." The reason he is still positive is that he feels the dollar's revival was just a short-term reaction to the Venice summit.

David Baker, at Sun Life, feels the dollar has stabilized and as a result an improvement is likely in the profitability of Japanese exporters. He

Continued on facing page



The Tokyo stock exchange, a strong bet that is only now showing signs of weakening

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Speculative but volatile market

Continued from facing page
has switched the emphasis of Sun Life's Far Eastern Growth Trust away from domestic stocks and into blue-chip electrical stocks.

But at the same time he has reduced the fund's exposure in Japan from 50 per cent six months ago to 24 per cent now. Most Far East unit trusts will now be underweight in Japan, placing far more emphasis on Hong Kong and some of the very small markets. Fund managers clearly feel that Japan's current level is not only unjustified, but is

also unsustainable. At the same time, they all seem to be saying there is so much money about that the market could conceivably go higher.

Confused? Don't worry — so are they.

Howard Flight, of currency fund experts Guinness Flight, paints a rather disturbing picture of a Japanese bubble about to burst. He says: "With neither the US being prepared to substantially cut its budget deficit nor Japan to take powerful measures to open its markets and utilize more of its high savings domestically, it

FAR EAST GROWTH FUNDS/2

remains difficult to see much alternative to further US protectionism and further appreciation of the yen.

"A Japanese stock market crash must become increasingly likely as a yet higher yen further reduces corporate profits and leads to corporate bankruptcies.

"In this context a gradual rather than sharp further correction of exchange rates is arguably desirable in the interests of preserving an adequate level of international stability."

While it is tempting prov-



Sarah Arkle: the ratio

idence to say that if you did not invest a year ago, you have missed the boat, it is difficult to envisage prices in Tokyo rising much higher from their current levels.

The market peaked last month, but it is too early to



Howard Flight: "desirable"

tell whether any definite downturn is occurring. Investors who want some exposure to Japan in their portfolio should invest in one of the more general Far East trusts, so that at least they can move into other markets if Japan does start to fall.

Tigers, tigers, burning bright

The so-called "tiger" markets of the Far East — Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines — have become the latest "next big thing" after the tremendous growth seen in the smaller markets of Europe in the past two or three years.

In swift response to this trend, a number of groups have launched specially designed "tiger" trusts. Thornton's Tiger trust is the most obvious, but there are others such as Henderson's Spirit of the East and Clerical Medical's Dragon Growth, as well as the more general ones such as Gartmore's Emerging Markets trust.

The Thornton Tiger fund has grown by 83 per cent in the past 12 months, while its sister fund, the Far Eastern Opportunities has grown by 70 per cent, indicating the benefits of concentrating on the smaller markets, as the Tiger Trust does.

Such a strategy requires a good deal of local contact and plenty of patience. These are developing countries, and their markets are likely to behave erratically. Some of them, such as the Philippines, are politically sensitive. Others even have a history of corruption.

The recent riots in South

Korea will not have helped investors at all, but it is a temporary setback. Although unit trust managers may have reduced their exposure to South Korea for the time being, they will expect to buy back later when they hope the market will have become cheaper anyway.

Taiwan and South Korea seem to be favourites with fund managers for long-term growth. Even though investment possibilities are few, the



Jane Hakham: via Papua

economic growth potential is so great that foreign investors are willing to pay a hefty premium for a stake.

Economic growth in South Korea is running at anything from 10 per cent to 15 per cent a year, according to which estimates you believe. Nobody doubts the country's

ability to emulate the Japanese economic miracle. Its trade surplus with the United States and the UK is already causing the same sort of concern, although South Korea is not in as strong a position to defend itself from US protectionist measures.

Thailand is not as advanced as South Korea or Taiwan, but fund managers have high hopes for it. It is relatively stable politically, and manages to compete on labour costs in certain industries, but it is still heavily dependent on its agricultural base. Construction seems to be the main new industry in Thailand, supported, naturally, by the Japanese.

It should be stressed that it will probably be three to five years at least, before these "tiger" markets are sufficiently developed to allow the free flow of money and to produce the returns to justify the risk. But with the Japanese market on an average price-earnings ratio of 75, South Korea, with an average ratio of six, does not exactly look overvalued.

Short-term is Hong Kong that seems most likely to produce the best growth in share prices and this is reflected in the current portfolio split of trusts concentrating on the Pacific countries.

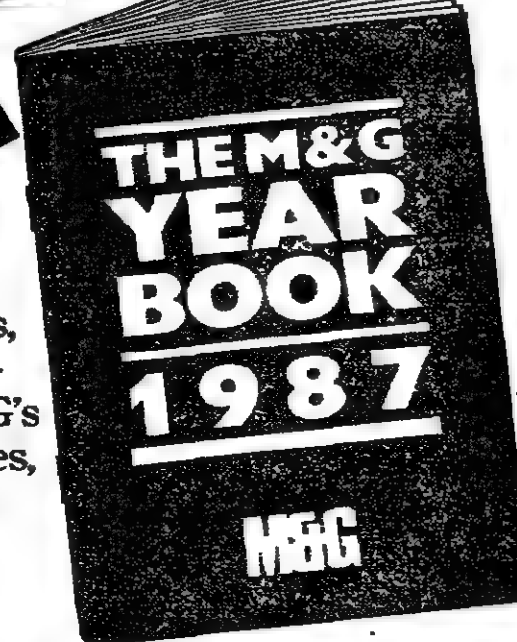
Gartmore's Capital Strategy fund is also venturing into other relatively uncharted areas such as Papua New Guinea, a country rich with oil and gold, but which does not have its own stock market. So the fund's manager, Jane Hakham, taps into the economy indirectly through Papuan companies quoted on the Australian stock exchange.

Most fund managers in this sector will, in fact, include Australia in their portfolio. Sun Life and Thornton both have 10 per cent of their Far Eastern funds in Australia, for example.



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Since the early 1970s the ASEAN economies have all shown a spectacular record of growth that has exceeded the average performance of the world's top 24 industrialised countries, which include the USA, Japan and Germany. Today, the economic facts all point to exceptional success in the future:

- SINGAPORE is booming, thanks to its new industrialisation policy.
- SINGAPORE's economy is forecast to grow by a mighty 6.5% in 1987. And in 1988, a colossal 8%. Interest rates have tumbled to 3%, inflation to minus 1.5% (Government Statistics).
- MALAYSIA & THAILAND are spearheading a massive development of the ASEAN manufacturing sector, significantly reducing the previous dependence on commodities and agriculture respectively.
- ASEAN economies, without exception, are growing spectacularly due to (a) the dramatic recovery of key commodity prices (b) low inflation and interest rates (c) massive foreign investment from America, Japan and Europe.

ASEAN stockmarkets are developing fast, thanks to deregulation, privatisation, and rapidly expanding liquidity. Singapore shares are particularly undervalued and offer considerable 'catch up' possibilities.

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ACSIS 34p to 420p in just three weeks

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In the last year Penny Share Focus has drawn the attention of subscribers to this deep little company news item three times.

After giving them a Five Star executive rating, last June it was again listing them again in November, to recently quoted some unusual activity in the share price and reported to subscribers on-line.

The way in which shares are on the move is to check the new high every day. That's what drew ACSIS JEWELLERY to our attention again, as it started to move into new high ground.

You may recall that we mentioned them twice before in PSE, in both instances drawing your attention to the "doublet" potential of this little retailer with a somewhat indifferent record for the last year.

Now, after three weeks, the share price has moved from 34p to 420p in just three weeks.

Imagine you had invested £500 at the beginning of June - you would have a share of £1,000 in just three weeks.

FANTASTIC GROWTH RECORD Seven out of the top twenty performing shares last year (all 25-75) were Penny Shares. Here is a selection of the recent winners:

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Of course, if you had the time, and the know-how, you could bet on the potential winners and then complete a thorough investigation of the company.

But there is an easier way to Penny Share Focus. Each month the Penny Share Focus team of analysts compile a list of research into a four page no nonsense action guide. Its sole aim, to provide investors like you with opportunities for the capital gains.

By carefully monitoring every Penny Share on the market... by collating masses of financial and company data... by making judicious enquiries into the company's management, sometimes even visiting their offices, PENNY SHARE FOCUS helps you to get the next Penny Share winner and keep your cash rolling.

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Remember, these companies are still trading and often have quite sizeable assets. Apart from the very few that do "go to the wall" and they're really surprisingly few - the only way a share price that has fallen to mere pennies can rise is up.

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covenant in favour of his friend's child in return for an under-the-counter payment and, in some cases, perhaps a reciprocal deed of covenant by the friend in favour of the original covenantor's own child.

In these circumstances, the participants have clearly paid no attention to the certificate of non-reciprocity that the Revenue normally requires to be completed. In effect, it states that the covenantor is not being made in return for any other direct or indirect payments.

The leaflet also warns against covenanted payments

as a way of paying for goods or services. Some schools may have been tempted to use their charitable status as a way of minimizing the fees for certain parents by suggesting that the parents make deeds of covenant in favour of the establishment.

In effect, this sets up a way for parents to get full tax relief on all or part of their school fees. Sadly, such schemes are not legal.

The leaflet points out the

consequences of misusing covenants. Where such cases are detected, the lost taxes are recovered, with interest and penalties, if appropriate. The Revenue also warns that serious cases of fraud may lead to prosecution and it takes a particularly severe view where professional advisers are involved.

The enthusiastic questioning and delving by tax officers around the country suggests strongly that the Revenue has started a serious campaign.

Church covenants are praiseworthy but must be honoured

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The Revenue swoops on the phoney deals

COVENANTS

The Inland Revenue has fired a warning shot in the direction of people who are tempted to use deeds of covenant as a means of fraudulently obtaining tax relief, say DANNY BLOCH and RAYMOND GODFREY

In a new leaflet, *IR74. Deeds of Covenant: Getting It Right For Tax*, the Inland Revenue sets out how a covenant works and what the tax effects are. Then, perhaps ominously, the leaflet warns about the misuse of covenants to evade tax.

Explains how a covenant is a legal document that has to be drawn up properly, binding the person who makes it to pay an amount of money over a period of time to another person. Covenants are often used by parents to give maintenance payments to student children, but they are also used by people for their grandchildren and by people who want to give to charity.

Covenants can lead to good tax savings. For example, if a grandparent makes a covenant of £1,000 a year for seven years to a grandchild, the child can reclaim a £369 rebate from the taxman, presumably with the aid of his or her parents. This is the grossed-up tax at 27 per cent basic rate on the net gift of £1,000; that is £369 is 27 per cent of the gross gift of £1,369.

If the covenant is in favour of a charity, the tax position for the donor is even more attractive because he or she can benefit from higher tax relief as well - and in practice the covenant need be only for a period of four years.

However, the Revenue has

found that many covenants have been wrongly drawn up. They have therefore been rejected, which has led to misunderstandings, delays and avoidable difficulties. So the leaflet aims to help prevent these errors and to show how a covenant can achieve the intended results.

The leaflet also looks at the attempts that have been made to use covenants to cheat the Revenue by deliberately claiming tax relief where it is not due.

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Fears over the great AVC rush

Will the much-heralded new freedom for pensions result in a lot of bad selling to the public? **MAGGIE DRUMMOND** thinks it will

Next year users in the new era of personal pensions. From January anyone in the State Earnings-Related Pension Scheme (SERPS) will be able to opt for a personal pension. From April those in company pension schemes will be free to make individual arrangements too.

But much sooner 20 million employees will be able to take advantage of what many feel is the most useful part of the new pension deal. From this October they will be able to boost retirement prospects by buying free-standing additional voluntary contribution (AVC) contracts that even now insurance companies and other investment parous are scrambling frantically to prepare. This enables people in an existing pension scheme to top up with an independent investment pot of their own.

In a macho Budget display of enthusiasm for the new pensions regime, the Chancellor Nigel Lawson brought forward the starting date for free-standing AVCs by several months, causing chaos among the institutions.

More important from the consumer's point of view is that this new and complicated opportunity looks as if it will

be promoted hard for a mass market months before the safeguards on the selling of investment products contained in the Financial Services Act are enforced. There is even doubt that these provisions will be operational by next January when millions of SERPS contributors will be the main focus of marketing attention.

And how can AVC plans be sold responsibly in October when many customers will not have the full range of pension choices until the following April?

"I think it could lead to an absolutely ghastly situation," says Tony Daggart, of Save &

'Pension decisions are crucial, complicated and individual'

Prosper, a company that is not usually backward when it comes to forwarding the cause of personal pensions. "The new rules and regulations on the selling of financial products will not be in force until January 1988 at the earliest."

"There is going to be a lot of hype about pensions. We know that consumers are particularly naive about pensions. I think that the early introduction of AVC plans before the fundamental protection of the Financial Services Act provisions are in place means open season for

cowboys. It's an opportunity for a huge amount of mis-selling, which can damage the whole presentation of personal portable pensions to the customer."

At the moment, for instance, there is no statutory cooling-off period for pension products to allow the customer a change of mind. There is a cooling-off period for insurance products. But this safeguard will be extended to pensions only when the Financial Services Act comes into force.

Many insurance companies and unit trust groups swear they already adhere to the best advice and know-your-customer rules that form a part of the new selling regulations designed to make certain that we buy the right product. However, these regulations do not yet have the force of law.

Mr Daggart says: "Pension decisions are crucial, complicated and highly individual. It's baffling enough for an actuary, let alone the man or woman in the street."

"It is terribly important that the customer is put in the best position to make the right choice. Rushing the whole thing on a political initiative before the new selling regulations take effect is just asking for trouble. We believe there is a strong argument for postponement."

According to Paddy Ross, of Framlington, these fears are groundless. "Can an AVC pension contract ever be the wrong thing to do?" he asks.

It is an attractive proposition — not just to the 10 million employees in SERPS but also to an equal number in occupational pension schemes, many of whom will want to stay put, with an AVC plan on the side.

Its chief attraction as a long-term savings vehicle is the full tax relief obtained on all pension fund contributions up to 15 per cent of salary, a tax break only rarely used to the full in a company scheme.

According to Mr Daggart, it can be the wrong thing to do. The most obvious example is the possibility of being over-pensioned if total benefits breach the Inland Revenue

'We would rather not sell anything if this leads to mistakes'

rule of two-thirds of final salary. Then the AVC investor has merely subsidised his company scheme because those benefits will be reduced to bring the total within the two-thirds limit — no wonder there is a strong lobby to persuade the Government to rethink what may prove to be unworkable benefit rules in the new pensions era.

Malcolm Reid, chief executive of LAUTRO, the governing body for the life assurance and unit trust industries, believes there is little risk that his organization's

members will sell pension products irresponsibly.

Mr Reid's opposite number at FIMBRA, whose members are brokers and other intermediaries, says: "The point raised about the early introduction of AVC plans is a valid one, which frankly we haven't thought about."

Colin Hawtin, in charge of marketing at Save & Prosper, says the piecemeal introduction of the new pensions regime will inevitably lead to bad selling in the autumn because customers will not see the full range of options until next spring.

He says: "An investor who buys an AVC plan in October because that is what we want to sell him at the time may well find that, come April, he or she wants out of the company scheme into a full-blown personal pension."

"Frankly, we would rather not sell anything this autumn if it is going to lead to these kind of mistakes."

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New rules to shake up the funds

The unit trust industry is in for a big shake-up following a wide-ranging government review of the industry.

Draft regulations published yesterday by the Department of Trade put forward the idea of money market unit trusts. These are seen as funds that would place cash on deposit with banks and building societies as well as investing in gilts and bills of exchange.

The department's draft regulations also widen the scope of funds of funds. These are funds that came into being in 1985 to enable investment in at least four other unit trusts run by the same manager. It is now proposed that in future such funds will be able to invest in any authorized unit trust, rather than only in trusts managed by the same company.

The department's regulations also cover a number of technical matters such as the range of permitted investments, the amount of fund money that can be placed in any one shareholding and the maximum that can be invested in any one company.

Most of the technical matters are to bring UK unit trusts into line with European practice as part of a Community

directive that has to be implemented by 1989.

Further regulations from the department are expected later this summer and these will cover the possibility of other new types of unit trust that may invest in property and commodities futures and options.

The draft regulations are published against a background of a booming unit trust market. Some parts of the industry are experiencing administrative problems but the overall picture is one of growth and development.

Earlier this week Bill Stuttford, chairman of the Unit Trust Association, said funds under management in June had risen by £2.9 billion, the biggest single rise ever in one month, to a new high of £44.2 billion. Net new investment also reached a new peak of £791 million in June and this was £100 million higher than the previous record set in January 1987.

The number of unit trust accounts has also exceeded four million for the first time and this is thought to represent the investments of around 1.4 million people.

Peter Gartland

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LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

The reluctant scrutineers

Edward Fennell jostles for a place among the haves and have-nots at the annual meeting of the august Law Society

It was the week for *glasnost* at the Law Society. Braced by the Coopers and Lybrand report on the Society's Machinery of Government and the arrival of John Hayes as the new secretary-general, it was decided to throw caution to the winds and expose, for the first time, Thursday's annual general meeting to the critical scrutiny of the visiting media.

As you would guess, no journalist worth his salt was absent and the three of us jostled excitedly for seats in the specially designated press area while solicitors from all over England and Wales foregathered for the historic occasion at the Law Society's Hall.

No one, I think, was without a sense of awe at the significance of the event and I must admit that one of my colleagues was so overcome that he had to withdraw long before we reached the highlight of the afternoon — the report on this year's elections.

As with other closed societies, we visiting democrats were interested to judge the speed of reform of the Law Society by the way in which the elections were conducted. Unfortunately the society still has a long way to go. In the best Eastern European traditions, all but one election was uncontested. Presumably there was a state of "official" candidates and it would be a brave party member who would stand against them.

Considerable interest focused therefore on the one seat which was fought over. This, significantly, was in the City of London as if only that hotbed of free thinkers and freebooters was bold enough to test the new freedoms to the limit.

Clearly, though, not everyone wants to be associated with real democracy at such an early stage in the social experiment, and when it came to finding scrutineers for the city's election, the Law Society's officials encountered real difficulties.

Of the first panel of five scrutineers, three decided it prudent to be unavailable to fulfill their democratic functions. A further panel was appointed and this time two scrutineers regarded absence to be the better part of valour. Even so Law Society rules take account of what might be regarded as "minimum observance" and with three as a quorum the count went ahead.

Not surprisingly, the lawyers' inexperience in the basic mechanics of democracy was soon exposed. Of just over 1000 votes cast, as many as 34 were

rejected by the scrutineers. Translated into terms of a typical Westminster seat, that would be the equivalent of discounting 3000 ballot papers — a decision which would, no doubt, produce instant demands for an inquiry.

Allowance must be made, nonetheless, for the fact that many of these first-time voters would have been confused and intimidated by the experience of direct election of their representatives, and this showed up, in due course, in the scrutineer's report.

Of the 34 rejected votes, 14 were late in arriving, nine were unsigned (after all, you wouldn't want to be identified if you voted for the "wrong" candidates.) and five, apparently, were refusniks whose addresses were not known to the authorities. Two had decided that you can't have too much of a good thing and voted for both candidates. Another two meanwhile had opted for caution and had not voted at all. And finally a couple of dissidents had abused the opportunity by spoiling their papers in particularly disgusting ways.

Anyway, at the end of it all, Mr Jefferson, who appeared to take the precaution of being absent, was pronounced the winner to the carefully orchestrated applause of the meeting.

There followed a call to adopt the annual report and again it was interesting

Aide memoire disguised as a heraldic shield

ing to observe the subtle techniques to engineer Law Society members towards open voting.

For most of us, putting up our hands to indicate support for the motion is a technique we absorb at an early age. Law Society members are not so fortunate, and therefore a neat little *aide memoire* was provided in the East Window at the front of the hall. Disguised as the heraldic shield of Sir John Maynard, Sergeant at Law, there was an easy learn graphic representation of hands shooting up to register a Yes vote.

Described as "Three sinister hands coupled at the wrist," the Maynard coat of arms left no one unclear about what was required when the vote was taken.

Once the formal business was over, the meeting proceeded to the even more exciting question and answer session. Here, I think, lay the real fascination of the afternoon as some of the much rumoured splits within the body of the Law Society were laid bare for the first time.

At the centre of the discussions was Ivan Geffen of Geffens, solicitors in Walsall. Apparently Mr Geffen for some years has made it his practice to use the AGM to hammer away his criticisms of the establishment. The convention, as you might expect from lawyers, hears out

his ritual harangue in unsympathetic and impatient silence and then passes on to next business without comment. For those of us who were getting a dose of Mr Geffen for the first time, however, there was much interest.

Mr Geffen represents a world of law which is far removed from the Slaughter and Mays, the Clifford Chances and the Linklaters and Paines. Mr Geffen runs a High Street practice in a low rent area. His clients come to him because they are poor and are dependent on legal aid for access to justice.

Mr Geffen is conscious that the service that his clients receive is of a different order to that available in the City or in Mayfair. And he is always aware that his own earnings via the legal aid system leave him in a different league from sleek London lawyers.

As he described painful meetings with his accountant and the cold shoulder he gets from the bank, one sensed that those who were doing rather well out of the present system had drifted off in their imaginations to contemplate an evening at the opera and dinner at the Savoy, rather than pondering too deeply on what it is like to scrape by on fees from legal aid in Townend Square, Walsall.

Mr Geffen's advice however is not knowing when to stop. As he made his way through his catalogue of complaints, his scatter-gun approach meant that no single target was effectively despatched.

The inadequacy of lawyers' education and training, the extent taken up in supervising articled clerks, payment on account of legal aid fees as well as the inadequate level of those fees... by the time Mr Geffen referred for the third time to "my accountant and I" even the sympathetic minority were thinking longingly about their tea.

His accusation that "the market is rigged against me, small firms like mine are in danger of dying because we cannot afford to employ staff," was full of pathos and probably true, but the ears of the audience were by now closed.

Mr Geffen sat down but the meeting was not quite dead.

What about the move from open market insurance to self-indemnity by the profession, asked one member, the increased costs of this and the dangers of escalating claims against lawyers by clients? The president was reassuring. Nothing to worry about so far, he said. But with the new scheme starting on September 1, it might contain more surprises than anyone can guess.

So that was that. Apart from the outgoing president Sir John Wickerson announcing how nice it felt to be free of office, nothing was left to say. The members departed. Most of them, by the looks of things, to offices in London and the Home Counties, leaving Mr Geffen to make his solitary journey back to Walsall.

The two worlds had met, but for another 12 months, thank heavens, they need meet no more.

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RACING: DERBY WINNER CAN GIVE WARREN PLACE TRAINER HIS FIRST KING GEORGE

Reference Point Cecil's jewel



Point to prove: the Derby winner Reference Point who faces older horses for the second time and classic fillies from his own generation for the first time in today's Diamond Stakes

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Reference Point has an excellent chance of winning the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot today. The horse, who won the Derby last year, is the only horse to have won both the Derby and the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes.

If he succeeds in capturing the jewel in Ascot's crown he could also easily become the middle leg of yet another treble for his trainer Henry Cecil whose runners on the course in June did so outstandingly well.

The master of Warren Place also saddles Bluebook (2.35) and Reprimand (3.55) in the main supporting races and the word from Newmarket is that they are two of his most gifted two-year-olds.

The De Beers-sponsored King George is one of the few big races that has eluded Cecil's net. Not even his filly's Triple Crown winner Oh So Sharp managed to win it two years ago. So why should Reference Point succeed where she failed? Firstly, he is able enough. Secondly, he will appreciate the distance again after reverting to 10 furlongs for the Eclipse. And thirdly, he will not mind the ground. In addition I feel that events may well show that he is sharper now than he was at Sandown where his race may well have come a bit too soon after his post-Derby rest.

My information is that Reference Point is better now

than he was then. Yet he still managed to beat Triptych at Sandown where the distance, if not the ground, suited her ideally. Today the softer ground will be right up her street but, I suggest, the longer distance, which is guaranteed to bring Reference Point's stamina into full play again.

There are two avenues of thought which say that Reference Point should beat Cecil Storm. The first comes by taking a form line through Triptych's wins: he was first and second in last year's Champion Stakes; the second through Mountain Kingdom who finished fourth behind Cecil Storm at Newmarket but five behind Reference Point in the Derby.

Other form lines through Triptych in last year's Arc and this year's Coronation Cup also give Cecil Storm the beating of the German champion, Acatenango, who won the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud last summer.

Moon Madness, the winner of the same race this season, now returns to the course where he ran so badly on that awful ground in June. It is pertinent to point out that he did outpace Cecil Storm in last year's St Leger, albeit over a different distance and on better going.

Soft ground will not worry Sir Harry Lewis, though. Barry Hills' colt proved that when he won the Irish Derby. However, he still has four lengths to make up with Reference Point on Epsom running.

The Italian challenger Tony Bin should not beat Moon Madness, let alone some of the others. So the only question remaining is, can Cecil Storm's prize as well as the Irish Oaks.

As all her form has been on good ground, it is impossible to say how she will cope with these different conditions. Her connections have rightly let her take her chance as they have all to gain and nothing to lose. In this instance, though, Reference Point has the more solid form, having done battle with top class older horses already.

If Bluebook is all she has been cracked up to be she should seal the ball rolling for Cecil Storm by winning the Princess Margaret Stakes. She has always been held in higher esteem at home than Diminution, who has accounted for both Magic Of Life and What Speed already at Newmarket. Like Bluebook, Aim For The Top won nicely first time out so she is to be feared greatly.

Reprimand, who has already been nibbled at in the amateur races, for next year's 2,000 Guineas, is taken to make a winning debut in the Granville Stakes, on the advice of George Robinson. Our Newmarket Correspondent, who has been smitten by his homework there for some while.

Pat Eddery's wife, Carolyn, has a clear chance of winning the Dresden Diamond Stakes on Tahilla while both Terminator (4.25) and Vague Shot (4.55) will command a big following later in the afternoon on account of their ability to handle the prevailing conditions underfoot.

Eddery was expected to ride the St Leger winner Moon Madness for John Dunlop but he has been claimed by Khalid Abdullah to partner the dual Oaks runner-up. Tony Lewis takes the ride on Moon Madness.

Bookmakers William Hill make Ten No Trumps, the favourite, at 10/1. The odds on today's races are today's Dresden Diamond Stakes at Ascot, a 6-1 shot.

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MOTOR RACING

Mansell emerges as the yardstick in qualifying round

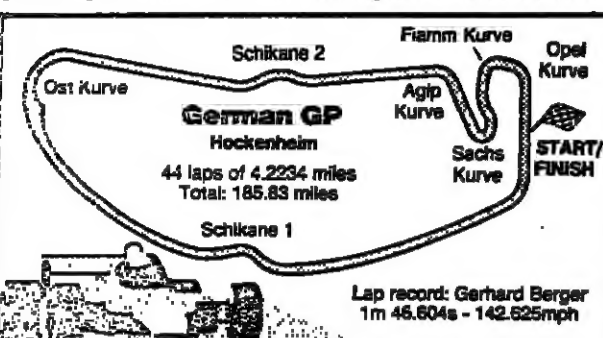
From John Blunsden, Hockenheim

The domination of the Nigel Mansell-Canon Williams-Honda combination continued yesterday throughout the first day of practice and qualifying for tomorrow's German Grand Prix. Mansell finished fastest in both sessions, and although Ayrton Senna offered strong resistance and at one stage held the provisional pole position with his Camel Lotus-Honda, Mansell retaliated with a lap during which he had to overtake four other cars to set the day's quickest time with eight minutes to go.

Senna, who a week ago emerged shaken but unscathed from a high-speed accident while testing here, had another busy few moments during qualifying when he went for fourth gear at the third chicane and found neutral instead. He managed the left off the S-bend, then shot off the track for about 200 yards before regaining the tarmac with the underside of his car somewhat the worse for wear.

He then switched to his race car, set his test lap in it, heard that Mansell had gone even quicker, then had a final effort at retrieving the best time. Only to come to grief on the final corner and once again go grass-cutting.

Senna was none the less pleased with the progress the team had made in improving his car's aerodynamic balance. "It's now just about right in qualifying trim," he said.



Paltry attempt to hide acceptance of the inevitable

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

EDGBASTON: England, with all their first-innings wickets in hand, are 421 runs behind Pakistan.

Neither side seemed much concerned with winning the fourth Test match, sponsored by Cornhill, at Edgbaston yesterday. Pakistan spent the last hour of their first innings patting the ball to deep set fielders, rather than looking to get England to the wicket; and England hardly went about their business with the urgency or enthusiasm, or for that matter the efficiency, that one hoped for. At the close England were 18 without loss in reply to Pakistan's 439.

And there was no play in the morning because of intermittent rain, some of it quite heavy. The start at 1.25 followed an early lunch, and an hour of the time lost was made up when play lasted until 7 o'clock. By then Pakistan had left far behind them a brief batting collapse. The overall impression left by England in the field was one of the utmost

ordinariness. It was very disappointing.

So intent upon going into the match with two spinners, England found them predictably superfluous. It was just on 6 o'clock before either of them bowled. Dilley took five of the seven Pakistani wickets to fall, finishing with five for 92, and Botham again had more overs than anyone. The pitch is so unutterably slow that it is hard to think the match will end in anything other than a draw.

Pakistan's tail-enders were in so little trouble that the run-out England achieved had long since seemed their likeliest way of denying Saleem Yousuf his first Test hundred. Yet the ball swung yesterday as it almost never had on Thursday. If England had bowled as their first XI should, they would not, I think, have been reduced to falling back, eventually, on undisciplined defence.

England came into the game during the afternoon at a time

when they had been doing nothing to deserve it. They had presented first the unprofessional, then the cynical, face of English cricket. Beginning the bowling with Botham, Foster had conceded a succession of boundaries in his first four overs, all off under-pitched balls. Nor, for a while, was his direction much better than his length. At the other end Botham, for all his wholeheartedness, was a shadow (metaphorically, that is) of his old self.

After 55 minutes play the light deteriorated sufficiently for the umpires to consult and for Gattling to be left in no doubt that if Dilley, rather than someone slower, bowled the next over, the batsmen would be given the chance of going off. Dilley bowled it, and sure enough play was soon suspended, though not before Dilley had won a leg before decision against Mudassar, who had batted by then for very nearly seven hours.

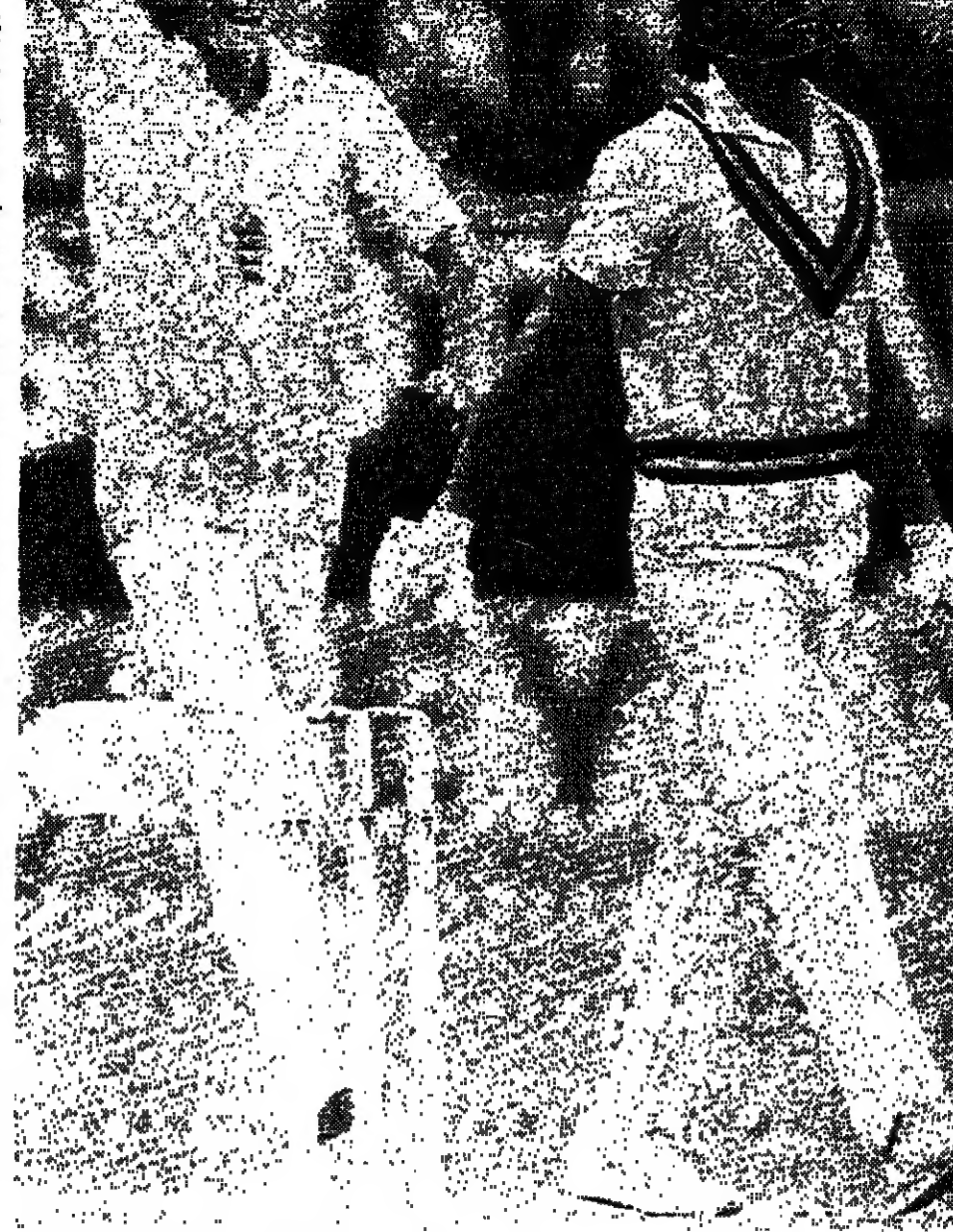
Mudassar described his hundred as "the most pleasurable experience of my Test career", a nice compliment to England from a man who once scored 231 against India, Pakistan's deadliest rivals.

No sooner had the players and umpires left the field than the light brightened, bringing an announcement that play would be resumed immediately, followed by the re-appearance of the umpires. Four, maybe five, minutes later, the England team were still lurking in their dressing room. The umpires had, in fact, omitted to notify either side that they were going out again, as they usually do.

It is barely conceivable, though, that the England players were unaware of it; if they were, it showed nothing more clearly than that they were not as keenly involved as they should have been for a side in need of every moment's cricket that they could get. To blame some poor 13th man, in this case a member of the Warwickshire ground staff, for not being on the lookout, only made things worse.

After leaving the field without the players showing up—the light had gone again—the umpires were back again not many minutes later, this time calling at the England dressing room on the way. Once in the middle, they gave the England captain what amounted to a public warning. It was well merited, too.

Three overs later, England's reluctant bowlers got among the wickets. With successive balls Dilley had Salim Malik caught at the wicket by French, one handed and at the fullest stretch, and Imran taken low down at first slip by



Dilley's delight: Imran, the Pakistan captain, departs first ball to the England fast bowler

Emburey. When Botham took his one wicket in his 38th over, Imran looking rather disgruntled at being given leg before, Pakistan had slipped from 284 for three to 317 for seven. But Yousuf, when he was four, survived a sharp chance to Botham at second slip off Dilley, and he, Wasim Akram, Qadir and Kamal all played with a flourish to greet the evening sunshine.

In the end England were happy enough. I am sure that Imran did not declare. He waited, instead, for Botham to take a catch at second slip. Edmonds a very good one in the gully and for Kamal to be sent back by Yousuf and run-out by a direct hit from backward cover by Dilley. Things had gone badly enough for England without their having to congratulate Yousuf, the villain of Leeds, on taking them for a hundred. He may not be much of a wicket keeper, but he can certainly bat.

had match-figures of 10 for 115.

It was further rain in the morning, lopping 33 overs from the day, which forced Geoff Cook into leaving what looked a small target on paper. However, the pitch, never easy at any stage, had been affected by rain and when Walker whipped out Felton and Roebuck (his only scoring shot of the match a cut six off Davis) in the second over with balls which lifted unpleasantly, Northamptonshire's task appeared easy.

It was then that Crowe took proceedings by the scruff of the neck and shook Northamptonshire out of kilter by throwing his bat at anything pitched up to him. He hit four fours and drove Nick Cook's first ball over long-off for six as 50 came up in the 10th over, but after tea Davis and Walker tightened their line and Davis claimed the crucial

wicket of Crowe at 78, trapping him leg-before as he attempted to turn a full-length ball through the leg side. Davis moved one away to remove Pringle, but Hardy was solid.

With 20 overs left Somerset wanted 86 and though Capel frequently beat Harden, Hardy set about Nick Cook. A run-out—alert work by Ripley defeating a scampered leg-bye—brought Northamptonshire the breakthrough with Hardy's wicket. Fifty-nine were needed off the last 10, when Burns, under instructions from the dressing-room, set about the bowling before Davis blasted through his defence at 142.

Earlier Lamb and Capel led the way for Northamptonshire as 84 were added off 18 overs, and Cook went on staunchly to an undefeated 67, the only half-century of the match.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Fijians in SA tour
Three Fijian Rugby Union players, Gutugutuiwa, Taruva and Tugiri, are to tour South Africa with a South Pacific Barbarians team that also includes Australian, New Zealand and Tongan players.

Bracknell buy
Bracknell Pirates basketball club have signed two top American college players, the centre, Trevor Gordon, and the guard, Greg Munroe.

Back at Locko
Diana Clapham, the Olympic silver medal winner, is one of Britain's leading international riders who will compete in the revived Locko Park horse trials on August 7 and 8. The meeting hosts the British intermediate and novice championships, which first went to Locko Park in 1977 and were held there annually until last year.

Forest cheer
Nottingham Forest have announced the biggest sponsorship deal in their history with the local brewery firm, Shipstones, who have agreed to back the first division club with £360,000 over three years.

Green booze
Prize-money of £50,000 and 147 gallons of whisky are at stake in this year's Lang's Supreme Masters snooker tournament at Glasgow's Hospitality Inn hotel, from September 17 to 20.

Prone to win
Malcolm Cooper, the Olympic champion for small-bore three-positions shooting, earned a qualifying place for the prone event at next year's Games in Seoul in the Helsinki open championships yesterday. He had already qualified to defend his three-positions title.

Hapless Britain singled out for Cup demise

From David Powell, Zagreb

Britain's chances of staying in the world group of the Davis Cup went from slender to almost non-existent yesterday when they lost the opening two rubbers of their relegation play-off against Yugoslavia here. Jeremy Bates was beaten 6-1, 6-0, 1-6, 6-3 by Bruno Oresar and Stephen Shaw was defeated 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 by Slobodan Zivjovic.

The main hope for British success in the four singles over the three days of competition rested with Bates in the rubber against Oresar. That said, Oresar is some 70 places above Bates in the world rankings, and his form yesterday suggested that, on clay at least, he will trouble players of far greater standing than Bates in the years to come.

Oresar, aged 20, has been a professional for two and a half years, yet somehow managed to qualify for the World Student Games tournament which was held here at the Salata stadium last week. Since the Yugoslav student football team was made up exclusively of first division players and could finish only ninth, Oresar's victory could not be assumed.

However, he did not let himself down in his home city, winning his second successive tournament on clay and gaining valuable practice for his Davis Cup task on the same court.

In contrast, Bates and Shaw spent five weeks on grass in England, took a week off and had only two weeks to adjust to clay. Paul Hutchins, the national team manager, thought his team were at no disadvantage.

"We are not complaining about that at all — they are more at home on clay than we will ever be," he said. "The problem was that we didn't raise our game at crucial psychological stages. The tie is nowhere near over because I felt that Stephen and Jeremy will have learnt a lot."

Bates was two sets down before he remembered that clay, in comparison to grass, requires greater patience from

the back of the court. He lost 10 games in succession but won the next eight until a disputed line call in the sixth game of the fourth set had a telling effect on the outcome.

A forehand down the line by Oresar was called out, and when the Yugoslav protested, the umpire confirmed the call. Further protests by Oresar and his team manager were made and the call was changed. Hutchins and Bates counter-protested and the referee ruled that the point should be replayed.

"That one call altered everything," Bates said. "After that I hit a couple of serves and came in and he clean passed me. He hadn't done that for a set and a half."

Oresar won the replayed point, and Bates's service, and did so again two games later. Needing to hold serve to win, he did so in a game which mirrored the imbalance of the match.

Leading 40-0, Bates hit a backhand return wide and put out a lob, in between which Oresar struck a forehand winner as the score reached deuce. Bates had another break point, but overhit a return, leaving Oresar to take the next two points and throw himself headlong into the clay in celebration of victory.

Shaw's match against Zivjovic went as expected. Although Zivjovic's best performance have been on grass — he has reached the quarter-final and semi-final at Wimbledon — and the semi-finals of the Australian championships — he is no pushover on clay.

There are no grass courts in Yugoslavia and Zivjovic was brought up on clay. He showed against Shaw that he has a few deft touches worked into that off-dia-on-like frame of his.

In order to save the British must win today's doubles — Castle and Bates against Zivjovic and Branko Herrat — and tomorrow's reverse singles. RESULT: Yugoslavia 2-0, Britain 0-2. Oresar 6-1, 6-0, 1-6, 6-3; Zivjovic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Carlsson too hot for France
Frejus, France
After three hours and 12 minutes of near-madness, Carlsson gave Sweden a 1-0 lead over France in the Davis Cup quarter-final here by beating Thierry Tulasne 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

There was a period towards the end of the second set when it seemed that the temperature, as much as Tulasne, might prove too much for Carlsson. Last Sunday, he lost to Mats Wilander, his compatriot, in 118 F heat in Indianapolis. Yesterday, in the little bull-ring that began life as a Roman amphitheatre 19 centuries ago, the heat approached 100 F.

These are not ideal conditions for a big, blond man whose jerky, all-action style resembles a toy soldier that has been wound up too fast. Carlsson is not even capable of walking to his chair at a reasonable pace. The Green Jackets would love him. He does everything at double-quick march.

Tulasne worked desperately hard to break his stride. He even deserted the baseline, his natural habitat — to attack Carlsson from the net. These were direct tactics because Tulasne needed to prevent the Swede from dictating the course of the rallies on the slow clay with his great, looping top-spin.

Had Tulasne been able to force a second break-back at 1-2 in the third set, when he held break point, Carlsson might have felt the heat even more. But as soon as he forged ahead, the crowd were again given a very clear idea of why this extraordinary performer is ranked No. 8 in the world.

RESULT: Sweden lead France 1-0. K. Carlsson 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Becker loves challenge
Hartford (Reuters) — Boris Becker, who is here for West Germany's Davis Cup relegation play-off against the United States this weekend, claimed he was a much better player as world No. 4 now than he was as No. 2 last year.

The West German teenager, who is making his return to tennis after a four-week lay-off following his Wimbledon defeat by Peter Doolan, of Australia, said: "The pressure on the Wimbledon champion, whom everyone wants to beat, has been taken off me. I'm now under another kind of pressure, one I need in order to play well."

"The Davis Cup helps... I'm not just playing for myself, but for the team, for the whole nation. Although I was No. 2 in the world last year, I wasn't playing good tennis. Today I'm No. 4 but I'm a better player."

"I'm more mobile than before, faster, and have learned to play on clay. I can also afford to lose sometimes when I simply want to try something out. My biggest aim is still to be No. 1, but that will take some time."

Becker described the loss of his Wimbledon title as "very painful, especially so when I watched the final on television. I didn't touch a racket for two weeks, just relaxed. But for the past 10 days I've been training again and now everything is going well."

Many people in tennis thought Becker's defeat was partly the result of his split with his mentor, Gomer Bosch, but he quashed suggestions he should engage another full-time coach.

"This question is really getting on my nerves. When will tennis fans finally realize I have a trainer? Ion Tiriac is my trainer."

Cash in 'perfect' form
Pat Cash, the Wimbledon champion, overwhelmed Leonardo Lavalle, of Mexico, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0 to give Australia a 2-0 lead in their Davis Cup quarter-final in Brisbane yesterday.

Paul Ramirez, the captain of the Mexican team, described Cash's play as "near perfect". It was the Australian's tenth successive win in Davis Cup singles matches since 1985.

Little-known Song Dongwook upset Paolo Cane, of Italy, 10-8, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, to give South Korea a surprise early lead in their tie in Seoul.

England keep the umpires waiting

By Alan Lee

The public image of the England team was embarrassingly damaged yesterday when, in five minutes of black comedy, the Test umpires stood alone and baffled in mid-pitch waiting to restart play while Mike Gatting and his men watched television in the dressing room.

It happened in mid-afternoon, following a brief stoppage for bad light. The umpires, Barrie Meyer and Alan Whitehead, returned to the middle and the 15,000 crowd looked on in astonishment when no players followed. Those with transistors would have heard fanciful suggestions of a strike and a semi-serious theory that the game was about to be conceded. The truth was simpler. Unforgivably, England's players were just not paying attention.

Considering the necessity to win this match and retain a chance of taking the Cornhill series, England's lapse was amateurish, and Peter Lush, a spokesman for the Test and County Cricket Board, was deeply concerned. "It didn't look good at all," he said. "For the image of the game and the team, it was a very poor show."

Lush added that Mickey Stewart, the team manager, was under the impression that it was the duty of the umpires to alert both teams when play was about to resume, though this was at odds with the umpires' view. No one, however, was willing to deny that it was a shoddy episode.

Lush said: "Mickey was obviously very upset about it because our team undoubtedly should have been out on the field and ready to play."

Officially, the burden of telling resting players that they are required back on stage falls on the twelfth man. Confusingly, this was not Neal Radford, whose duties apparently end with fielding, but a teenage Warwickshire player named Ed Milburn. The natural question, however, is what were the other players up to? Lush was a shade coy here. "The television was on but they were not watching the cricket channel," he said. This leaves three possibilities: an old David Niven film, a series on sixteenth century verse and racing from Ascot. No prizes for guessing which.

Two former England captains gave a view. Tony Lewis, presenting the television coverage, said: "I couldn't understand it. It was like commenting on a funeral."

Mike Brearley recalled: "In my day it was the usual habit of the umpires to tell the teams of a resumption, but that is no real excuse."

Meyer, the umpire, confessed: "I have never known anything like this to happen before and it could not have gone on much longer. We were about to take some positive action when the light deteriorated again. It is the responsibility of the fielding side to follow us out and England should have been aware of that."

Somerset tail frustrates leaders

By Marcus Williams

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire (4pts) drew with Somerset (5).

Northamptonshire, the Britannic Assurance championship leaders, were frustrated in pursuit of victory yesterday. In a dramatic finish Somerset, who had been set 174 to win from what turned out to be 49 overs, finished at 170 for eight.

After an innings of fits and starts, Somerset eventually required nine off the final over from Davis with three wickets in hand. Marks, their main hope at this stage, drove the first ball to long-on, where Capel held a good, low catch and though Palmer and Maltender had the bonus of a no-ball, they could manage only five singles and the match was drawn, ironically amid bright sunshine which had been notably absent from the three days. Davis finished

with match-figures of 10 for 115.

It was further rain in the morning, lopping 33 overs from the day, which forced Geoff Cook into leaving what looked a small target on paper. However, the pitch, never easy at any stage, had been affected by rain and when Walker whipped out Felton and Roebuck (his only scoring shot of the match a cut six off Davis) in the second over with balls which lifted unpleasantly, Northamptonshire's task appeared easy.

It was then that Crowe took proceedings by the scruff of the neck and shook Northamptonshire out of kilter by throwing his bat at anything pitched up to him. He hit four fours and drove Nick Cook's first ball over long-off for six as 50 came up in the 10th over, but after tea Davis and Walker tightened their line and Davis claimed the crucial

wicket of Crowe at 78, trapping him leg-before as he attempted to turn a full-length ball through the leg side. Davis moved one away to remove Pringle, but Hardy was solid.

With 20 overs left Somerset wanted 86 and though Capel frequently beat Harden, Hardy set about Nick Cook. A run-out—alert work by Ripley defeating a scampered leg-bye—brought Northamptonshire the breakthrough with Hardy's wicket. Fifty-nine were needed off the last 10, when Burns, under instructions from the dressing-room, set about the bowling before Davis blasted through his defence at 142.

Earlier Lamb and Capel led the way for Northamptonshire as 84 were added off 18 overs, and Cook went on staunchly to an undefeated 67, the only half-century of the match.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Fijians in SA tour
Three Fijian Rugby Union players, Gutugutuiwa, Taruva and Tugiri, are to tour South Africa with a South Pacific Barbarians team that also includes Australian, New Zealand and Tongan players.

Bracknell buy
Bracknell Pirates basketball club have signed two top American college players, the centre, Trevor Gordon, and the guard, Greg Munroe.

Back at Locko
Diana Clapham, the Olympic silver medal winner, is one of Britain's leading international riders who will compete in the revived Locko Park horse trials on August 7 and 8. The meeting hosts the British intermediate and novice championships, which first went to Locko Park in 1977 and were held there annually until last year.

Forest cheer
Nottingham Forest have announced the biggest sponsorship deal in their history with the local brewery firm, Shipstones, who have agreed to back the first division club with £360,000 over three years.

Green booze
Prize-money of £50,000 and 147 gallons of whisky are at stake in this year's Lang's Supreme Masters snooker tournament at Glasgow's Hospitality Inn hotel, from September 17 to 20.

Prone to win
Malcolm Cooper, the Olympic champion for small-bore three-positions shooting, earned a qualifying place for the prone event at next year's Games in Seoul in the Helsinki open championships yesterday. He had already qualified to defend his three-positions title.

Becker loves challenge
Hartford (Reuters) — Boris Becker, who is here for West Germany's Davis Cup relegation play-off against the United States this weekend, claimed he was a much better player as world No. 4 now than he was as No. 2 last year.

The West German teenager, who is making his return to tennis after a four-week lay-off following his Wimbledon defeat by Peter Doolan, of Australia, said: "The pressure on the Wimbledon champion, whom everyone wants to beat, has been taken off me. I'm now under another kind of pressure, one I need in order to play well."

"The Davis Cup helps... I'm not just playing for myself, but for the team, for the whole nation. Although I was No. 2 in the world last year, I wasn't playing good tennis. Today I'm No. 4 but I'm a better player."

"I'm more mobile than before, faster, and have learned to play on clay. I can also afford to lose sometimes when I simply want to try something out. My biggest aim is still to be No. 1, but that will take some time."

Becker described the loss of his Wimbledon title as "very painful, especially so when I watched the final on television. I didn't touch a racket for two weeks, just relaxed. But for the past 10 days I've been training again and now everything is going well."

Many people in tennis thought Becker's defeat was partly the result of his split with his mentor, Gomer Bosch, but he quashed suggestions he should engage another full-time coach.

"This question is really getting on my nerves. When will tennis fans finally realize I have a trainer? Ion Tiriac is my trainer."

Cash in 'perfect' form
Pat Cash, the Wimbledon champion, overwhelmed Leonardo Lavalle, of Mexico, 6-2, 6-1, 6-0 to give Australia a 2-0 lead in their Davis Cup quarter-final in Brisbane yesterday.

Paul Ramirez, the captain of the Mexican team, described Cash's play as "near perfect". It was the Australian's tenth successive win in Davis Cup singles matches since 1985.

Little-known Song Dongwook upset Paolo Cane, of Italy, 10-8, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, to give South Korea a surprise early lead in their tie in Seoul.

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